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Addendum

Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in pursuance of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 44/57 of 8 December 1989 on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to include in the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation a special section dealing with the activities carried out at national and international levels on the implementation of the Declaration. It invited all Governments "to take into consideration the provisions of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development in their developmental policies, plans and programmes, as well as in their bilateral and multilateral co-operation". It also recommended that the Declaration be taken into account in the formulation of the international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of programmes of international action "to be carried out during the decade".

2. The resolution recommended that the international organizations "concerned with development continue to use the provisions of the Declaration ... in formulating strategies, programmes and international instruments aimed at social progress and development".

3. This present brief review of the activities relating to the objectives and goals of the Declaration has been prepared, in part, on the basis of information provided by member States and international organizations in response to a request by the Secretary-General and on reports published by United Nations agencies. It focuses on national activities and international actions in the main areas of social development crucial to the promotion of social progress and economic growth.

I. FAVOURABLE INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

4. Since 1989, the international situation has radically changed due to events of historic magnitude in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The ideological and political division within the international community, which had cast a shadow over the very existence of mankind during the second half of this century, appeared to come to an end. Among people throughout the world the hope was shared that the gigantic material and intellectual resources that had been wasted on the preparation for war, or on actually fighting wars, would henceforth be used on human development, on fighting poverty and hunger, and on overcoming economic backwardness and other persistent socio-economic problems.

5. However, as the most recent developments have shown, a painful period of readjustment to the new socio-political conditions lies ahead for the countries making the transition: there is a big difference between the benefits that should in theory arise from the transition and their enjoyment in actual practice. The rest of the world needs some time to comprehend the new situation and get rid of the legacies of the cold war. National and group egoisms, expansionist ambitions, a search for economic hegemony and a lack of trust, good will and solidarity - all these obstacles have to be overcome in order for nations to take full advantage of new opportunities.

6. The new international situation has also highlighted the real nature of certain regional and subregional conflicts which had long been attributed to the super Powers' involvement rather than to deep-rooted local causes. The irony of the situation is that some of the conflicts had been contained under the old order but have now surfaced in the most violent manner, with their toll in death and destruction continually escalating. On the other hand, the international community appears to have been caught unprepared to deal effectively with such conflicts. The existing international mechanisms to settle them have proved to be too slow and, in some cases, seem to be failing. It is becoming apparent that more imaginative and energetic international actions and mechanisms are needed to ensure that the peace process remains alive. Rather than simply tackling their consequences, efforts should be directed to understanding and dealing with the roots of the problems that have erupted into violence in recent years.

7. Each member of the world community also needs to develop a more generous attitude towards other members' problems. However, a noticeable shift has occurred in the attitude of parts of the public in some countries to such issues as migrants and refugees, external economic assistance and financial support for international actions. These changes may undermine the ability of the international community to take full advantage of the potential benefits of the new international situation.

A. Preservation of peace

8. The Declaration on Social Progress and Development strongly emphasizes that peace is an essential condition for social progress and development. The maintenance of international peace and security has been the primary

responsibility entrusted to the United Nations since its inception. However, the application of the international mechanisms available for conflict resolution was previously constrained by antagonism and discord among the permanent members of the Security Council and, in many instances, by their direct or indirect involvement in regional conflicts throughout the world. Prior to 1988, the United Nations had set up only 13 peace-keeping operations, although the need for a greater number of energetic war-preventing and conflict-resolving international actions had been enormous.

9. Over the past few years the world has witnessed the revitalization of the capacity of the United Nations to resolve conflicts. Since 1988, the United Nations has conducted 13 peace-keeping operations. The most recent have been the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (since March 1992), the United Nations Operations in Somalia (since April 1992), and the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (since March 1992).

10. Some important changes have taken place with regard to peace-keeping. In the first place, 8 out of the 13 operations undertaken since the end of the cold war have involved not only traditional military activities but also a wide range of civilian ones. In Cambodia, for example, the peace agreement requires the United Nations to supervise various parts of the existing administration, to organize elections, to monitor the police, to promote human rights, to repatriate more than 350,000 refugees and to begin the rehabilitation of the entire country. In the case of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, the United Nations was involved not only in verifying and monitoring all agreements concluded between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional but also in other related measures, including the reform and reduction of the armed forces, the creation of a new police force, the reform of the judicial and electoral systems, the protection of human rights, and changes in land tenure. 1/

11. The experience accumulated by the international community over the past several years in the area of peace-keeping suggests that under present conditions there is a real possibility of avoiding armed collisions through the more effective use of preventive diplomacy and through identifying and addressing more promptly the roots of conflict-bearing problems. The involvement of member States, either on an individual basis or through regional organizations, in peace-building and peace-keeping activities consistent with Articles 52-54 of the Charter of the United Nations appears to be another effective way of preventing military clashes. The involvement of regional organizations has demonstrated that their participation in peace-settlement may help the conflict-resolution efforts of the United Nations and speed up the process of international or national reconciliation. Somalia is an example. However, regional organizations need to be properly equipped in order to utilize fully their potential in the area of peace-keeping.

12. Certain regions have already begun creating the necessary institutional structures and mechanisms for political and military security. In Europe, for instance, at a meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (19-21 November 1990, Paris) the heads of State and Government of the 34 countries adopted a set of documents consolidating the fundamental changes which had taken place in Europe and laying the foundations of a new

confidence-building and collective security system. The participants stated in the Charter of Paris that "to strengthen peace and to promote unity in Europe require a new quality of political dialogue and co-operation and thus development of the structures of the CSCE". 2/ In particular, they recognized the necessity of intensifying military/political consultations at all levels. To that end, the participants of the Paris summit decided to organize meetings of heads of State or Government every two years; to establish a Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs (the 34 ministers will meet regularly, at least once a year); and to institute a Committee of Senior Officials with the aim of preparing the meetings of the Council and carrying out its decisions. The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs was also requested to discuss the possibility of establishing an emergency mechanism to convene meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials in emergency situations.

13. Another important element of the emerging all European security system will be the Conflict Prevention Centre established in Vienna. Its main task is to assist the Council of Foreign Ministers in reducing the risk of conflict. It will probably act as a forum for the exchange of military information and as a mediator in disputes.

14. There has also been an intensification of peace-settling activity in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Organization of American States (OAS) recently employed non-military measuress against two States whose constitutions were overturned: Haiti in 1991, and Peru in 1992. In the case of Haiti, OAS imposed a trade embargo and other economic sanctions on 8 October 1991. Peru was condemned by OAS and suspended from the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group).

15. However, the effectiveness of regional organizations in peace-settlement has limitations, at least at the present time. The major constraint is a lack of trust. Other obstacles to more active participation of regional organizations in peace-settlement are the absence of appropriate institutions, funds and, in some cases, institutional arrangements which would allow the organizations to respond to a crisis rapidly enough on an emergency basis.

B. Disarmament

16. The Declaration on Social Progress and Development viewed disarmament as one of the major instruments for achieving and ensuring peace. Since 1989, the most far-reaching changes have taken place in this field, and it is widely believed that the threat of world-wide nuclear war has been eliminated. The signing in Moscow in July 1991 by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) may be seen as the symbolic end of the era of a global race in the invention and production of the most sophisticated weapons for the destruction of human beings. 3/

17. The events in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, however, cannot be attributed exclusively to changes in the former USSR. They were a combined result of the collective efforts of the international community and other supporting factors. Among the latter, one of the most important was the staggering rise in the cost of modern weapons. It became more and more obvious that the further continuation of the arms race would have serious detrimental effects on the economic health of any nation, even to the most technologically and economically advanced.

18. The past few years have seen considerable progress in several areas of disarmament and arms control. Thus, in September 1989, two countries, the United States and the Soviet Union, concerned with the erosion of the Geneva Protocol (1925), moved ahead in their bilateral negotiations on chemical weapons and made a commitment to cooperate on the destruction of chemical weapons. In June 1990, they signed an agreement on the destruction and non-production of their chemical weapons and on measures to facilitate the conclusion of a multilateral convention. According to this United States/USSR Chemical Weapons Agreement, the signatory parties made commitments to begin the destruction of chemical weapons no later than 1992, to destroy 50 per cent of stocks no later than 1999, and to reduce stocks to the level of 5,000 agent tons by the year 2002.

19. Both countries have begun the implementation of the Agreement. By September 1990, the United States had removed all its chemical weapons stock from deposits in Germany and shipped them to Johnson Atoll in the Pacific to await destruction. The destruction process started in June 1990. 4/

20. Advances were also made in international forums. In February 1990, the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva) decided to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, with a mandate that no longer ruled out the possibility of the final drafting of a convention. 5/ Whereas the Geneva Protocol banned the use of such weapons, there had been no ban on their production, testing and stockpiling, and the negotiations were to fill this gap. They had previously been complicated by problems related to verification, jurisdiction and control and certain other technical and political issues, but a final draft was completed in September 1992 for submission to the General Assembly.

21. Similar efforts were undertaken by the United States and the Soviet Union in relation to biological weapons, which were also on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. In May 1990 the United States passed into law the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989, 6/ and announced its intention to destroy its remaining stock of live smallpox virus. The USSR was invited to take the same step, and both countries agreed to destroy their stocks by the end of 1993. In April 1992, Russia announced a decree banning work on biological weapons, and in September 1992, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced an agreement providing for inspections of each other's military and non-military biological sites.

22. A promising change occurred in the area of conventional weapons. On 19 November 1990, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed at the Paris summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This will dramatically reduce the heavy militarization of Europe. One of the most important features of the treaty is that an upper limit has been established on the amount of equipment that any State may hold in the region between the Atlantic and the Urals. Another vital provision is that equipment in excess of the Treaty limits will be verifiably destroyed.

23. As the voluntary disarmament of the two largest military powers has progressed, the attention of the world community has shifted to the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Such a re-focusing was also accelerated by the concerns that arose with respect to Iraq during and after the 1990 crisis in the Persian Gulf and later, in 1991,

by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence out of its remnants of several States equipped with nuclear arms. These concerns have not yet been completely removed, as disputes have arisen on how to share the all-Union military forces and on the succession rights of the former republics of the Union. However, a recent accord achieved by the presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation on 16 June 1992 in Washington D.C., on eliminating their land-based multiple-warhead missiles and drastically reducing the two countries' stocks of long-range nuclear weapons by the year 2003 was a promising sign that the process initiated in 1990 by the United States and the (then) Soviet Union will be successfully carried to its completion by all the former Soviet republics concerned. 7/

24. The recent experience of the international community during the Persian Gulf crisis has highlighted some aspects of the arms race which had been regarded in the past as of secondary importance. Among these were the following: the arms trade, the spread of nuclear and other sophisticated military technology, the militarization of developing countries, the nature and consequences of ethnic conflicts, and international terrorism. It has become increasingly clear that as long as the international community does not agree on a common policy and verification methods in such important areas as arms production and trade, the danger of large-scale confrontation will always be present.

C. Degradation of the environment

25. The past few years have witnessed a growing international awareness that the continued degradation of the global environment has become a real threat to the very existence of human and other forms of life on the planet. According to scientific observations, the rate of extinction of the earth's species has accelerated dramatically in the past two decades. It has increased from one species per day in 1970 to one per hour in 1990, and to one every 12 minutes in 1992. Since the dawn of life, species have been dying out as a result of disease, lack of food or failure to adapt to environmental change. However, the current situation has been described by many scientists as a period of mass extinction of species. The major cause of the present catastrophe is believed to be the disappearance of natural habitats - forests, wetlands and coastal regions - through deforestation, urban sprawl, rural development, air and water pollution, overpopulation and other pressures linked to human activities.

26. The human invasion of ecosystems (and its consequences) has been multifaceted. In some cases, it resulted in the destruction of native flora and fauna. However, at present all life forms are at risk. Industrial pollution seems to be a major cause of the "greenhouse effect" which may produce accelerated, radical changes in global climate patterns. It is established that industrial gases, mainly carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, methane and nitrous oxide, have been responsible for global warming. According to much scientific opinion, unless the global output of harmful industrial gases is reduced, life on Earth will soon be irreversibly altered, with a devastating impact on the lives of millions of people. Many scientists also believe that the only way to prevent this catastrophe for the whole planet is for the international community to undertake immediate collective measures to stop air pollution and to reorganize the development process on an environmentally sound basis.

27. The international academic community and non-governmental organizations have undertaken enormous efforts to have environmental issues included in the political agenda at both the national and international levels. For its part, the United Nations has contributed in educating the public on ecological problems. United Nations organizations have sponsored a number of international forums at which the participants have discussed environmental problems and possible actions to prevent further deterioration of the human habitat. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a ministerial meeting in Mexico City in March 1991 which adopted the Tlatelolco Platform on Environment and Development. Similarly, the Economic Commission for Europe sponsored a conference, Action for a Common Future, in Bergen, Norway, in May 1990.

28. Many United Nations agencies contributed to the preparation of the June 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro. For example, in March 1991 a consultative meeting organized by UNDP and non-governmental organizations on behalf of the Conference contributed ideas for Agenda 21 on the links between poverty and environmental degradation and options for action, and in April an international conference on agriculture and the environment, organized by FAO and the Government of the Netherlands, assisted the Conference secretariat in the preparation of its reports on sustainable agriculture and environmentally sound land use.

29. Another area of United Nations activity has been establishing norms for the protection of the global environment. Since 1989, a number of important multilateral agreements have been negotiated or have entered into force. Those that have been negotiated include the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (London, 29 June 1990), the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (London, 29 November 1990), and the Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused During Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (Geneva, 20 October 1989). The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer entered into force on 1 January 1989.

30. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development itself, two new international conventions were signed: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. An agreement was also reached on principles of forestry.

31. The results of the Conference can be viewed as a landmark beginning of a series of international collective actions to preserve the planet. Certainly, the implementation of these agreements is not likely to be an easy task, judging by the controversies between poor and rich countries on priorities for international efforts in socio-economic areas. A major effort will be required at the national and international levels to mobilize the resources to implement Agenda 21. If the signatory parties pursue the policy of sustainable development with determination and open minds, the new international conventions should serve as a firm basis for a more precise balancing in the future of development needs with environmental concerns.

32. The environment is a relatively new area of international cooperation. Although a considerable amount has been done in studying the consequences of the interaction between nature and people, little has been done in appraising the available technological and scientific potential in terms of the costs of

economic restructuring towards more environmentally sound development. The present conditions of access to clean technology and expertise also need to be evaluated. An institutional support structure and economic incentives have to be in place. They will constitute necessary elements in assuring that the process of transformation will become irreversible.

II. AN EMERGING NEW GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

33. A new concept of development has taken shape gradually since the mid-1980s, as dissatisfaction with the results of previous national development efforts has become widespread and as some harmful by-products of the global development process have raised doubts about the soundness of its foundations. These widely shared concerns have been generated by the persistence of poverty throughout the world, by the marginalization of many developing countries, many of them trapped in foreign debt, by a growing technological and economic gap between a relatively few countries and the majority of countries, by an ecological disaster threatening an increasing number of countries and by other socio-economic problems. Global interdependence, considered by some as a vehicle of progress, has failed to make the technological and economic advances that have occurred accessible to all and appears to have worked in favour of a minority of countries.

34. However, such a pessimistic appraisal of the results of the development efforts during the past decades contains some exaggeration. Although it is true that certain socio-economic problems have not been solved, it is also true that most countries have been able radically to transform their societies and that a diffusion of the industrialization process and of information technology throughout the world has strengthened the foundation for socio-economic and political interaction. This also has contributed to the development of common values and a universal vision of the world to come. This new world has to be more humane, or people-oriented.

35. The most important elements on which this emerging global ideology rests are: a recognition of the priority of human rights over the rights of a collective - be this a community, nation, or ethnic group; a belief that a human being and his needs have to be the focus and target of the development process, not the other way around; and the view that earth is a common habitat which has to be protected and preserved. This ideology also relies on the perception that a deepening global interdependency would benefit humanity, if States are able to adjust their behaviour to fit in with the new reality and attendant responsibilities.

36. This new approach to development appears to have had a profound impact on international cooperation in terms of priorities, sectoral structure, conditionalities and forms of international assistance. It is too early to say to what extent it is more efficient or effective than previous approaches, but it constitutes a distinct set of development priorities, principles, goals and means of implementation.

37. The long-term goals of the new development concept have not changed significantly from those embodied in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, but the means of the implementation have been partially reviewed. In the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United

Nations Development Decade (1991-2000), the attainment of "a significant improvement in the human condition in the developing countries and a reduction in the gap between rich and poor countries" was proclaimed as a major goal of the international community. The Strategy also identified six interrelated goals whose implementation can ensure a successful resolution of the world's fundamental socio-economic problems:

"(a) A surge in the pace of economic growth in the developing countries;

"(b) A development process that is responsive to social needs, seeks a significant reduction in extreme poverty, promotes the development and utilization of human resources and skills and is environmentally sound and sustainable;

"(c) An improvement of the international system of money, finance and trade so as to support the development process;

"(d) A setting of strength and stability in the world economy and sound macro-economic management, nationally and internationally;

"(e) A decisive strengthening of international development cooperation;

"(f) A special effort to deal with the problems of the least developed countries, the weakest among the developing countries." 8/

38. On the issue of policies and measures to implement the proclaimed development goals, the Strategy advocates the liberalization of global interdependency. It believes that by removing obstacles to and restrictions on the movement of production factors and by easing the developing countries' access to international markets, technology and financial resources, the international community will create the prerequisites for a more even and sustainable global development process. At the same time, the Strategy calls for a re-evaluation of some of the domestic policies of the developing countries in terms of gains and losses. In particular, it underlines the limitations of import-substitution policies in the case of small economies or of export-oriented policies which have resulted in the creation of economic enclaves.

39. The Strategy also underlines the limitations of the State's ability to ensure sustainable development. It believes that the private domestic sector in the developing countries is strong enough to contribute to the development process: "The capabilities of the private sector have grown in many countries and there is considerable scope for enhancing the contribution that private enterprise can make to a dynamic process of industrialization. Entrepreneurship should be encouraged at all levels for the setting up of industries." 9/

40. The Strategy calls for the development policies of the developing countries to be centred on two specific aspects of development - environment and human conditions: "economic growth by itself does not ensure that its benefits will be equitably distributed or that the physical environment will be protected and improved. Yet, if poverty persists or increases and there is

neglect of the human condition, political and social strains will grow and endanger stability in the 1990s and beyond. Similarly, if environmental damage and degradation increases, the natural resource base of the developing countries and the welfare of populations will be harmed and progress in development itself will become unsustainable. The Strategy must, therefore, give special attention to the policies and measures in the areas of poverty alleviation, human resource development and the environment." 10/

41. The new concept of development has been further refined in the course of the international debates on human development at the beginning of the 1990s. An outcome of these discussions has been some retreat from a traditional view of the State as the caretaker and the human being as a passive recipient. By putting the human being at the centre of the development process, the new development concept sees the role of the State as the provider of support for human social activity rather than as a substitute for it. Thus, a guarantee of human rights is expected to encourage and stimulate popular participation in all areas of social and economic activity. The State, on the other hand, has to look after common interests (law, order, social justice, security, environment) and to ensure that the development process is sustained.

42. The function of the State in terms of development, is still a subject of discussion. Some have insisted on curbing it drastically. Others, however, arguing on the basis of the historical experience of human development, have advocated a creative and dynamic interaction between the public and private sectors, between the individual and the State. They believe that the development process can be organized in such a way as to encourage and stimulate the constructive ability of each factor in the development process, while neutralizing its destructive ability.

III. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

43. In their responses to the note verbale of the Secretary-General, Member States indicated that their development efforts during the past years had been concentrated on a number of objectives relative to those contained in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development - namely, the eradication of poverty; human resources development; the protection of vulnerable groups; the stabilization of the population growth; social protection and welfare; and the advancement of women.

44. Most of the correspondents also reported to the Secretary-General on their policy measures and institutional build-up in certain areas of human development. Just as the responding countries vary in their level of development and the social progress achieved, so do their concrete goals and efforts differ.

A. Developing countries: efforts to preserve past social accomplishments and sustain social progress

45. Mauritius reported a significant improvement in per capita income distribution since the end of the 1980s which it attributed to two main factors: an increase in GDP, and the stabilization of population growth. According to the information provided by the Government, GDP at market prices almost doubled from Rs. 23,576 million in 1987 to an estimated Rs. 41,265 million for the year 1991. This economic growth, combined with the stabilization of the population growth rates in the 1980s, had a favourable impact on the per capita income which increased from Rs. 22,951 in 1987 to Rs. 39,245 in 1991. However, this expansionary trend, as the Government indicates, was largely propelled by the unprecedented momentum in the Export Processing Zone; if the Export Processing Zone contribution is excluded, the actual annual rate of growth of the economy declined from an average of 7.2 per cent over the 1984-1987 period to 5.4 per cent over from 1988 to 1991. Nevertheless, the expanding economy has made possible sustained growth in employment creation in Mauritius over the past few years. Between 1987 and 1991, more than 40,000 new jobs opened up. The unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent in 1987 was reduced to a fractional level in 1991.

46. The Government of Mauritius has been trying to utilize the benefits of economic growth to modernize social infrastructure and enhance the quality of life of the population. In the area of housing, it has introduced a long-term housing lending scheme and fiscal incentives with the aim of improving the living conditions of the population. The scheme consists of long-term loans at subsidized rates of interests. The total interest payments on housing loans are deductible from income. Housing loans are made available through the Mauritius Housing Corporation, established in 1991, whose main objectives are: to purchase and acquire lands and buildings for property development; to develop lands acquired by the company; and to engage in residential and other property development. The Corporation has already embarked on a major housing programme which consists of the construction of 2,000 units per year in the initial years and ultimately some 5,000 units per year.

47. The Government has also been striving to improve the basic facilities of households. Between 1983 and 1990, the percentage of households supplied with electricity increased from 94 per cent to 98 per cent. Gas has become the principal fuel for cooking, following a reduction in its price as a result of the removal of customs duty on the import of gas. About 98 per cent of Mauritian households are already connected to piped water.

48. Human resources development has been a focus of the Government's efforts during the past decades. As a result, the country has achieved an impressive record in education. "There is universal provision of primary education for six years. Enrolment ratios are nearly 100 per cent. ... Every Village Council Area has at least one primary school. There are five years of secondary schooling leading to the School Certificate, and a further two years to the Higher School Certificate. Enrolment ratios at the secondary level are around 50 per cent. Education at all levels is free. Textbooks are freely provided for all primary school children and to children from poor families in the lower forms of the secondary schools."

49. However, the country has been suffering from a shortage of technicians and some other professional categories. In order to solve this problem, the Government has promoted the creation of technical training bodies and of a lycée combining technical and general education. A new master plan on education for the year 2000, prepared recently, aims at broadening the educational structure so as to make it more responsive to the needs of a fast changing society.

50. In the area of health, Mauritius has been trying to achieve the goal of health for all by the year 2000. In terms of access, the Mauritius population is provided with free health services, and this has helped to improve the health status of the population.

51. According to the official report, by 1990 the ratios of doctors and dentists to population were, respectively, 1,091 and 7,400. An extensive network of maternal and child health services has been established. A relatively wide range of medical services is provided to the population through urban health centres, community health centres and primary care units and dispensaries. However, the quality of medical services still constitutes a problem to be overcome.

52. Mauritius has been persistent in developing and perfecting its social welfare system. The country's National Pension Scheme, introduced in the mid-1970s with a view to protecting all workers in the public sector, has been extended to cover all private-sector employees, including the self-employed and household employees. The Social Aid Act of 1902 was revised in the late 1970s to provide assistance to vulnerable groups, especially those at the lowest income strata, and was extended recently to provide warm clothing to old persons and financial help to needy students.

53. About 4-5 per cent of the Mauritius population suffer from some form of disability. In order to protect the disabled, a National Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled was set up. It is responsible for the provision of cash benefits, training and rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

54. Niger, like many other African countries, is currently confronted with grave difficulties which impede its economic and social development. The impact of the economic crisis is felt widely in all economic sectors and by the people. The social situation has been deteriorating for many years. The average per capita income is estimated at $320. Underemployment, disease and malnutrition are widespread. The population growth is quite ahead of economic expansion - 3.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively. Against this disappointing background one has to add natural calamities such as drought and desertification which affect the lives of people and cause migratory movement, which is responsible for the devastation occurring in the rural areas.

55. Faced with this alarming situation, Niger was engaged in a structural adjustment programme aimed at improving the economic environment. However, the end result of the adjustment programme has been a negative impact on employment and on the purchasing power of the people. Even provisions made to balance the drastic economic consequences of the structural adjustment programme did not work well.

56. Despite the efforts made by the Government, it is difficult to claim any progress or visible result in the social sectors of the country.

57. The health situation in Niger is particularly alarming and critical. The share of budget spending allocated to the health sector has been always minimal. In 1960, it was 8.75 per cent. It declined to 6.75 per cent in 1990. Personnel staff in the health sector is insufficient. For instance, there is one medical doctor for 48,000 inhabitants and one midwife for 1,400 expectant mothers. The mortality rate for mothers and children is one of the highest in the world - 70 and 132 per 1,000, respectively. Life expectancy is around 48 years.

58. However, efforts have been made to develop the health sector - to protect the vulnerable groups, specifically mothers and children, and also to reduce the negative impact of the economic recession introduced by the adjustment programme. Some of the actions taken are:

(a) Extension of the vaccination programme;

(b) Intensification of the fight against malaria;

(c) Intensification of the fight against diarrhoea;

(d) National programme for health education;

(e) Intensification of the fight against malnutrition;

(f) Prevention programme and an intensification of the fight against AIDS;

(g) Family planning (actually started in 1985) and the creation of a national family health centre.

59. Despite enormous efforts made by Niger in the field of education, enrolment rates remain very low. Budget spending allocated to education seems to be one of the highest and absorbs about one fifth of the budget. However,

Niger has one of the lowest rates in the subregion. It was estimated at 23.5 per cent in 1990, compared with 27.5 per cent in 1982.

60. The educational system is also confronted with a high drop-out rate, due mainly to high selectivity.

61. Vocational schools, limited in number, are trying to cope with increased demands for placement. The training provided by the vocational centres is inadequate because of lack of facilities and the changing requirements of the labour market. The continued economic recession is also exacerbating this trend.

62. Although government efforts are still insufficient, they have nevertheless produced some positive results, especially at the high-school level. The enrolment of students increased from 11,108 in 1974 to 51,129 in 1990.

63. The major challenge facing Niger is undoubtedly the status of its youth. Fifty per cent of the population is under 15 years of age. This youth population may be an asset for development, but, it also represents a burden to the State and the family because it has enormous needs - specifically, health care, education and employment creation, etc. The youth living in the rural areas are not enrolled in school and are confronted with mounting difficulties in their daily living, mainly due to declining agricultural production.

64. Unemployment among youth has become a crucial concern for the economy. The crisis affecting the country since 1985 has exacerbated the situation.

65. The efforts to educate youth can be summarized as follows:

(a) One of the oldest institutions in the rural areas, known as samarya, has been rehabilitated. Samarya teaches youth how to interact among themselves so they can participate in the community and get involved in development action;

(b) Centres to educate young girls have been created;

(c) Since 1989, a youth corps programme has been in operation. Each year 300-500 adolescents, usually students, are recruited and trained to fight desertification and work in agricultural-related activities, mainly soil conservation.

66. Action has been focused on children in extremely difficult situations, notably abandoned children and street children.

67. In respect of handicapped persons, Niger has been trying to raise the awareness of the population concerning the problems of this social group. Five associations of handicapped persons have been established to deal with their specific problems. Four schools for blind and deaf children have been established. Vocational training in various fields and two training centres dealing with agriculture, poultry and gardening have been set up. A project aimed at reintegrating children affected by polio into society is being implemented.

68. In Niger, women play an important social and economic role. However, the daily living and working conditions of women are far from what they should be, due to a series of prejudices and taboos, and women do not benefit from the same privileges as men.

69. In order to correct the situation, several specialized institutions were established - in 1981, the Department for the Advancement of Women; and in 1989, a Ministry dealing with social affairs and the advancement of women. In 1991, the mandate of the Ministry was extended to comprise social development, population and the advancement of women.

70. The Government deals with the following concerns: training of women (management, microproject); women's health, hygiene, family planning; women's centres, where women are taught sewing, nutrition and how to read and write. It assists women in rural areas in their daily work, particularly, with the installation of grinders for grinding cassava, peanuts etc. It is drawing up a family code and rural codes which will give women access to land for cultivation.

71. The Government of Jamaica has reported on its efforts to sustain social progress despite the hampering effect of current economic stabilization and structural adjustment measures. The country intends to reduce further the illiteracy rate of the Jamaican population. From 1972 to 1992 the rate declined from 50 per cent to 18 per cent. The Jamaica Five-Year Development Plan, 1990-1995, envisages achieving a further 9 per cent fall in illiteracy by the year 2000.

72. Since 1982 primary education has been universal in Jamaica. However, education at levels above the primary is still not compulsory. Jamaica's educational system needs significant improvements in qualitative terms. Inequalities in access to education at the secondary and tertiary levels must be eliminated. The country has been trying to improve access to education through the expansion of facilities and programme offerings and with financial assistance. The quality of educational services is to be improved through better training of national professionals at the tertiary level.

73. Like many other developing countries, Jamaica suffers a shortage of technical personnel. Yet, technical and vocational training, although recently expanded, is not free. Jamaica is trying to find a solution to this problem through a combination of policy measures. In 1991 the National Training Agency was established to pursue a technical and vocational training policy. The main goals of the new policy are to enhance the expansion of technical education and training as well as to police standards for technical and vocational education and training.

74. Considering the potential costs of establishing a nationwide network of technical and vocational training and retraining, the Government of Jamaica encourages the national private sector to take part in facilitating training and retraining of staff members with the creation of their own support for training institutions.

75. Hunger, malnutrition and poverty have been problems of major concern for the Government of Jamaica. In its persistent attempts to eliminate these problems, it introduced meals at public schools. A food stamp programme,

introduced in 1984 to cover the very poor of all ages, has been extended to other population categories. It has been modified over time, and the value of stamps and the ceilings on different beneficiary categories have been raised. A project development unit within the Food Stamp Programme selects able-bodied beneficiaries to launch income-generating self-help projects. The goal is to remove the need for such individuals to receive state assistance. Grants do not exceed J$ 5,000 per person. The projects include animal-rearing, garment-making and baking.

76. Jamaica has expanded its social security schemes and welfare services. In 1991 a special pension for persons 85 years old and over was introduced, in addition to the National Insurance Scheme already in operation. A widows pension scheme was also introduced in 1991 and inequalities in the male/female retirement age were eliminated.

77. For persons who are not covered by the National Insurance Scheme (with little or no income), special public assistance programmes are in place: the Income Transfer Programme, Economic and Social Assistance, Poor Relief, Emergency Relief, and Programmes for the Handicapped and the Aged.

78. To improve benefits in the future, the Jamaica National Insurance Board set up an investment office in 1990 whose function is to establish, monitor and maintain a portfolio mix that will enable the fund (an investment trust fund) to satisfy future claims while maintaining sufficient liquidity to honor short-term claims with certainty and promptness.

79. Jamaica has also attempted to perfect its national welfare programmes. Currently, the Jamaican National Councils are trying to improve the targeting of welfare provisions and to decentralize the provision of services, particularly those offered to the disabled.

80. Significant progress has been achieved in Jamaica in improving the status of women. Jamaican women have guaranteed maternity leave and are ensured of equal rights in all areas of education and equal pay for work. The National Minimum Wage Order of 1975 brought female domestic workers into the minimum wage structure. A number of recent matrimonial acts significantly increased the protection of women's rights and interests with regard to property, custody and guardianship of children and inheritance.

81. At present the Jamaica Bureau of Women's Affairs focuses its attention on increasing women's access to employment and income and on upgrading women's skills. It has also attempted to expand women's access to credit and markets. The Bureau has sought to secure a fair percentage of jobs for women on projects being carried out within the public sector. Moreover, in the past few years it has collaborated with non-governmental organizations with a view to expanding the possibilities of additional jobs for women outside the public sector.

82. The main emphasis of Jamaican policy regarding the protection of the rights of children has been on disabled and street children.

83. Within recent years, the Jamaican public health system has deteriorated considerably due to reduced budgetary allocations and a severe shortage of nursing and other health personnel. To solve this crisis, the Government took

a policy decision to implement user fees. A new schedule was approved in November 1991. Currently, the new practice is in operation at Spanish Town Hospital and is expected to be introduced in all public hospitals. However, some population categories will be exempted from the scheme.

84. In 1989, the Population Task Force of the Five-Year Development Plan, 1990-1995, recommended an urgent reassessment of the goals of the national population policy in light of the current demographic, social and economic conditions in Jamaica. The emphasis of the new population policy will be on the improvement of the health status of the population, a further reduction in the infant mortality rate, and increases in life expectancy at birth and in the contraceptive prevalence rate.

85. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been adjusting its social development policy to fit current social and economic circumstances. It initiated a reform of the social service delivery system in order to eliminate some inadequacies, particularly fragmentation, resulting in duplication of activities; absence of a system to facilitate coordination and collaboration between ministries and agencies; and lack of evaluation mechanisms.

86. In order to address these shortcomings in the areas of social security and income redistribution, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken a revision of the legislation governing access to social assistance programmes. It is felt that the effectiveness of these programmes has been undermined by somewhat archaic regulations. New legislation will facilitate greater access to several assistance programmes. A rehabilitation component being proposed is in the form of a training and development project and should contribute to greater effectiveness and efficiency in the social assistance provided to some specific recipients (battered women, probationers, ex-convicts and school drop-outs).

87. To improve the provision of social assistance to needy families and children, the National Family Services Division has conducted a codification of all legislation pertaining to the child and the family. The division has attempted through workshops and seminars to educate all the groups/agencies concerned with assisting needy families and children.

88. The National Family Services Division has proposed several measures to expand the social assistance system - namely, establishment of a foster-care system; a situation analysis of children in especially difficult circumstances; training of personnel in family life management; a public education programme towards the establishment of a foster-care system; and training of staff at orphanages and industrial schools.

89. New social assistance programmes in progress represent an attempt to cope with family/child problems by providing a support for community development, especially for the poorest members of society. Among such programmes, the People Oriented Programme, implemented in 1991 and targeted at eight of the most vulnerable communities in the country, appeared to be the most successful. Community needs - physical, social and infrastructural - were identified by the community, and community resources (specifically, labour) were utilized to fulfil the identified needs. Technical assistance and funding were provided by the Government. The Programme is to be extended to other communities throughout the country.

90. Trinidad and Tobago has made advances in providing legal protection to women. In 1991, two new laws were enacted: the Domestic Violence Act, and the Attachment of Earnings (Maintenance) Act.

91. Several measures have recently been proposed to ease the entry/re-entry of women into the labour market: accelerated education and literacy programmes for women, and exposure to technical/vocational skills so that young mothers can increase their marketability; encouraging the establishment of day-care nurseries within or near industrialized enterprises to motivate young mothers to work; and promoting the establishment of low-cost day-care facilities in neighbourhoods, at the home of a parent who will be trained to supervise children.

92. In an effort to render immediate relief to the increased numbers of poor, unemployed and destitute persons, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, introduced a programme for feeding the needy in 1990. In addition to food, the programme provides rehabilitation services to the displaced and the poor. During 1990 about 8,000 people were covered by the programme.

93. In June 1991, a Social Rehabilitation Walk-In Assessment Centre was opened. It provides treatment, sanitation, nutrition, clothing and shelter to the indigent, non-mentally ill homeless population. At present, it is diversifying its activities in order to reintegrate the homeless into productive life.

94. A personal development element has been incorporated into other social assistance programmes. It is a distinct feature of the current social programmes, which have become, compared to the previous ones, more effective in reaching targeted groups and developing their self-reliance.

95. The major concern of the Government of Venezuela has been the deepening phenomenon of poverty. According to its estimation, the number of households in a state of extreme poverty grew from less than 3 per cent in 1981 to nearly 20 per cent in 1988. A deterioration in the standard of living of the population at large was also registered. In order to reverse these negative trends, the country's social policy was re-examined.

96. A new social strategy adopted in 1989 emphasizes the redirection of resources towards the needy and includes actions designed to contain the negative economic effects of the adjustment policy. Current social policy comprises a strong focus on poverty; a shift from generalized subsidies towards programmes designed to promote the lower-income social sectors (focused subsidies); increased emphasis on the role of the non-govermental sector in the area of services, together with the promotion of incentives to community participation in the conduct of social programmes; and a strengthening of existing services within the framework of focused actions towards those social groups that are the most vulnerable both biologically and socially. A further objective is to lay the foundations for the development of human resources.

97. In the pursuance of these goals, Venezuela has made unprecedented efforts to expand a coherent set of social programmes aimed at meeting the priority needs of the most disadvantaged segments of the population. Among the new

programmes are the Food Allowance Programme (1989), the Milk Allowance Programme and the School Uniform and Supplies Programme. These programmes are being carried out through the network of nursery and elementary schools. By 1991, more than 60 per cent of all children enrolled in nursery and elementary schools benefited from them.

98. At present, the Government of Venezuela is considering extending the above-mentioned programmes to children not enrolled in school as of 1991. Part of a new special allotment of Bs 3.5 billion will finance a programme of direct food subsidies for children in extremely difficult circumstances.

99. Venezuela's activities in the area of social welfare are not limited to food subsidies. The country has also reformed and expanded the maternal and child-care system. Emphasis is now on the provision of primary health care rather than on curative medicine.

100. In order to broaden the access of low-income groups to education, Venezuela has increased the number of nursery schools. The Family Day-Care Programme is one of the Government's most important social programmes. It aims to improve the nutritional level of children from poor families and to encourage an interest in education in those children while they are very young.

101. In the past few years, Venezuela has undertaken some experimental programmes to bolster the economy at the grass-roots level, providing loans to micro-entrepreneurs and strengthening the cooperative movement through so-called "family consumer fairs". The fairs actually represent a form of loan, granted on a contractual basis and repayable to the State, which is used to support the cooperatives' productive activities and reduce the prices of consumer goods.

102. The country has also been developing a new system of social security. In 1988, it introduced the Unemployment Insurance Programme. Currently, other components of the system are under consideration.

103. The Government of Egypt has provided many social services to the population through cooperatives in urban, rural, desert or newly developed areas. The number of people who benefit from these services is approximately 16 million. The cooperatives have been carrying out many projects: illiteracy courses; occupational training; health and child care; care for the elderly; children and adult cultural and social clubs. The Government intends to promote, through the cooperatives, a new programme which will improve the environmental awareness of the population and will lay the foundation for more organized activity aimed at the protection of the environment.

104. In its overall social development policy, Egypt has concentrated on those social groups in which cooperation with society is impeded for one reason or another. Disabled persons are one such group. A current programme of social rehabilitation of disabled persons aims to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Prevent handicaps, through early detection, of cases of disability and help the individuals concerned to make the fullest use of their capacities;

(b) Provide special education opportunities for disabled persons;

(c) Provide opportunities for vocational guidance and rehabilitation;

(d) Provide suitable work and employment opportunities;

(e) Provide social welfare opportunities to ensure the stability of the disabled person or the livelihood of his family members, both during rehabilitation and afterward;

(f) Guide public opinion on dealing with disabled persons, using the various information media;

(g) Encourage scientific research on the problems of disabled persons and ways of caring for them;

(h) Set up institutions to house disabled persons and safeguard them from danger;

(i) Provide opportunities for the recreation of disabled persons, with suitable facilities in keeping with their condition.

105. These objectives have been pursued in rehabilitation centres, physical therapy centres, protected factories, prosthesis manufacturing plants, intellectual training institutes, psychological guidance centres, and day-care centres for the disabled. The Government has established specialized courses for training personnel of the institutes dealing with the rehabilitation of disabled persons (social rehabilitation officers) and encourages and supports research studies on the problems of rehabilitation of the disabled.

106. The Government's policy on women is based on the knowledge that women constitute half the community, perform social functions of paramount importance, and must be provided with everything that will enable them to perform those important functions successfully, and that they are entitled to receive from the State and from the community all the assistance and care they need in order to overcome any obstacle which may stand in their way. Projects are in operation to encourage women's participation in community development, to raise their economic and social status, and to assist them in making their productive activity income-generating. Such projects are being carried out in 100 villages in 13 of the country's governorates.

107. The Productive Families Programme, launched recently in Egypt, is an attempt to help low-income families increase their income. In 2,750 Productive Families Centres, opened at universities throughout the country, families are familiarized with the opportunities that exist to increase their income - for example, making crafts (shell items, women's straw items, kilims) at home.

108. On 20 December 1989, the Government of Panama adopted the National Development Strategy which is composed of specific policies that aim at economic recovery, sustainable growth, employment creation and the reduction of poverty in the country. Employment creation is one of the main objectives of the Strategy and is perceived as the principal mechanism for solving the main social problems the country faces. Reforms in the educational system are required and envisaged.

109. One of the policies to be implemented is the deregulation of the economy, particularly of the labour markets, as a way to increase the supply of jobs. Tax reform is also planned, to eliminate incentive distortions. The ultimate goal is the restructuring of price-fixing mechanisms so that prices can be determined by market forces.

110. Over the past few years, owing to public efforts in the areas of health, education, housing and labour, significant advances have been made in the major social indicators such as life expectancy, the literacy rate, and the enrolment rate. Social expenditures averaged 38 per cent of total expenditures in the public sector over the past six years. But in 1990, due to the political crisis, social expenditure, on a per capita basis, fell 20 per cent.

111. Despite the progress mentioned above, the country has a high level of poverty incidence, due to problems in the labour market, skewed income distribution and inefficiencies in the implementation of social programmes by the public sector, mainly as a result of poor targeting. About 51 per cent of Panamanian households are poor, of which 27 per cent are extremely poor.

112. To alleviate this situation, the country has adopted the National Strategy to Reduce Poverty which consists of a series of projects in the areas such as nutrition, health, education and housing.

113. On 30 December 1991, the country adopted a tax reform programme which, among other things, envisages a better distribution of income by reducing the tax rate and increasing the allowed deductions. On the expenditure side, investments in health, education and housing are considered priorities, and specific projects in each of these fields are being carried out.

114. The following activities were undertaken in 1990-1991:

(a) In the area of health: distribution of vitamin A in areas suffering from problems associated with malnutrition; organization of seminars on nutrition problems for employees of the Ministry for Health, Education and Labour. In 1990, about 600 people took the courses; in 1991 participation increased to 775 people; and establishment of the Programme for Supplementary Nutrition to Pregnant Women, which covered six public health centres and about 700 women during a six-month period;

(b) In the area of education: community and psycho-sociological development, through discussions on issues such as drug abuse, in order to raise the awareness of the public; promotion of human rights through the educational system. About 300 teachers completed courses with specialization in human rights;

(c) In the area of housing: plans that envisage the creation of 7,800 houses for low-income families.

During 1991-1992, 1,480 units will be constructed, benefiting 5,000 people; and an urban renewal project for the construction of buildings with 198 apartments.

115. The major goals of the current social policy of Oman are to ensure social justice and social protection of each member of society by extending social security shelter by means of support for social work in the provinces and regions. However, this does not mean that the Government of Oman intends only to provide the population with a guaranteed minimum of protection. An emphasis in the current social policy is on converting families receiving social security into producers, by investing in the human energies of the individuals concerned and training them for production in the area of environmentally sound handicrafts.

116. In pursuing these goals, the Government of Oman has set up 90 projects involving 7,122 people of both sexes. They were provided with the necessary tools and services with a view to increasing their income. Hand-made goods produced by the trainees were valued at RO 65,607 and marketed mainly through a permanent exhibition.

117. The same development approach has been applied to raising community living standards. Emphasis has been placed on social welfare and social development activities for the less developed communities in the form of joint (government/private) projects which, through planning, should improve environmental conditions and draw on the inherent capabilities of the communities. As of late 1991, the number of development projects was 981, at a total cost of RO 3,702,352. The cost of government participation amounted to RO 1,754,927, while that of private participation amounted to RO 1,947,425.

118. Oman has been extending social services to the population of remote regions and to specific social groups. With regard to the population of remote areas, basic treatment and instruction in hygiene and preventive medical measures have been provided through the "Health Scouts" assigned to development centres by the Ministry of Health.

119. In conformity with the principle of equal opportunity and the activation of idle capacities, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has introduced programmes for the disabled and women. In both cases, the emphasis has been on training, with a view to raising the social, economic and educational levels and developing the capacities of the disabled and women. There are currently four centres for the rehabilitation of the disabled, and 89 women's training centres.

120. The country still has a relatively large illiterate population, especially among women. Some innovative approaches have been explored by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. In particular, the voluntary help of private individuals has been widely used in making literacy classes and adult education accessible to all illiterates of both sexes. Private individuals have assisted by transporting instructors from their homes to such classes and by monitoring students and educating citizens through house visits and individual and group interviews conducted by both male and female Scouts.

121. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic believes that a primary obligation of the State is to provide for every citizen in cases of emergency, sickness, disability, orphanhood and old age. It has responsibility for the health of its citizens and should ensure them the means of prevention, treatment and cure. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, which is entrusted to carry out the above-named functions, has concentrated on providing social services to disadvantaged groups, like the disabled, orphans and foundlings, those deprived of family care, juvenile delinquents and the homeless. It has established many social welfare agencies in order to provide

education, vocational training, employment and institutional care for the disadvantaged. A number of specialized institutions in the country deal with handicapped children. Among them are four special-education institutes for the deaf and dumb, at Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Latakia, two model institutions for the training of the blind, and two schools for physically handicapped children.

122. Homeless children are taken care of by two institutes for homeless youth, in Damascus and Aleppo, and by government homes for foundlings, the one at Aleppo belonging to the Child Sponsorship Society of Aleppo. Around 28 orphanages have been opened throughout the country, most of them belonging to charitable associations.

123. The main concerns of the Government of China have been the stabilization of population growth, the improvement of conditions for child development, the maintenance and improvement of education services, the preservation of a high rate of employment, and the improvement of living conditions and social protection of the population.

124. The excessive population growth characteristic of China puts tremendous pressure on the country's education, medicine, housing and municipal administration. It also accelerates the depletion of farmland and other natural resources and the deterioration of the environment. It also undermines efforts to raise living standards. The Government has been trying to cope with these problems by undertaking several measures to control population growth, including the introduction of family planning, public information, and the provision of technical services. These efforts have succeeded, and the natural population growth rate has declined from 25.83 per 1,000 in 1970 to 14.39 per 1,000 in 1990; aggregate fertility has decreased in the same period from 5.81 per 1,000 to 2.31 per 1,000.

125. Child survival, protection and development has become a focus of the Government's current attention. In pursuance of the goals and principles proclaimed by the World Summit for Children, the Government has drawn up a Programme for the Development of China's Children in the 1990s. The Protection of Minors Act was promulgated and put into effect in 1992. This new law brought the health and growth of children and youth within the ambit of the legal system.

126. The situation of children in the country has improved noticeably, due to the persistent efforts of the Government and the Chinese population itself. Although the infant mortality rate is still relatively high, it has decreased dramatically over the years, from 200 per 1,000 in 1949 to 31 per 1,000 in 1990. In 1990, the rate of child immunization reached 85 per cent, and only 31 per 1,000 children under the age of five suffered from malnutrition.

127. The Government of China has made education a focal point of its national development readiness effort. Since 1949 China has advanced significantly in educating the nation. The percentage of illiterates in the population declined from 80 in 1949 to 15.88 in 1990. The enrolment rate of school-age children increased from 20 per cent in 1949 to 97.8 per cent in 1990. The primary school completion rate is now 74.6 per cent, and junior/middle school education is available in most towns. In 1986, China promulgated the Compulsory Education Act, making nine years of education compulsory by law.

128. Since 1979, China has placed special emphasis on the development of vocational and technical education. By mid-1990, the enrolment in vocational and technical schools accounted for 48 per cent of all senior/middle school enrolment. China has also modified the strictly culture-oriented education of the past by linking the literacy effort to primary vocational science education.

129. The Government has been making special efforts to fulfil its obligations regarding the provision of job opportunities. Under the new economic conditions that emerged after the introduction of the reforms of 1979 and in which various forms of ownership exist but public ownership prevails, the Government has made some changes in the once centralized employment system. In rural areas, vigorous steps were taken to promote village enterprises and various types of secondary and specialized employment. Self-employment has increased in urban areas and now occupies up to 6.7 million persons. Labour-contracting has been expanding in both urban and rural areas. However, the public sector remains the main provider of jobs in the urban areas. In 1990, about 103,460,000 out of the total urban labour force of 140,590,000 persons were employed in public enterprises.

130. In order to promote a broader participation of women in economic and social activities, the Government of China has done much to develop a support system of social incentives and benefits and child-care facilities. In 1988, the Regulations Governing the Protection of Women Workers was issued by the State Council. They govern all aspects of women's participation in the labour force. They prohibit, for example, the engagement of women in heavy and physically hazardous work, while providing leave for pregnancy, childbirth and nursing without a wage cut or job loss.

131. China has made considerable progress in alleviating poverty. Occupying 7 per cent of the world's farmland, it has managed to clothe and feed 22 per cent of the world's population. However, there are still a number of poverty-stricken areas in the country. In order to eliminate poverty in those areas, the State Council has established a Leading Group on the Economic Development of Poverty-Stricken Areas, whose major function will be to provide help to the regions concerned, so as to enable them to develop their economies through self-reliance rather than through relief. In pursuing this policy, the Government will assist the regions in strengthening their basic water, electricity, road and communication infrastructures. Free assistance will be provided through the national Development Fund for Assistance to Underdeveloped Regions. Low-interest and discounted loans will be made available to poverty-stricken areas. The State is also going to allocate considerable quantities of goods under a programme of relief on the basis of goods-for-work. Fiscal incentives to stimulate local production are also envisaged.

132. China has initiated a reform of the social security system with regard to the new social and economic conditions. In June 1991, the State Council issued the Decision Concerning a Retirement Pension Plan. Under the new pension system, coverage will be provided on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility involving the State, the enterprise and the individual. The Government has also begun to explore the possibility of a rural social security scheme. In addition to the long-standing "Five Guarantees" rural support system, a community-based social security scheme whose main components

would include a mutual assistance fund, homes for the elderly, sheltered workshops and benefits for disabled servicemen and their families is currently under study.

B. Developed countries: protecting social welfare and social protection systems

133. Despite prolonged and heated criticism of the welfare State and advocacy of substantial change, developed countries have proved to be quite reluctant to pursue the idea of reform. In fact, recent election campaigns in some of these countries have revealed strong public resistance to any attempt to modify radically the existing welfare and social protection systems. Indeed, since 1989, the Governments of many developed countries have been continuously attempting to perfect and extend welfare and social protection schemes.

134. However, some countries have undertaken measures to make their welfare policies more efficient, by reviewing the terms and conditions of welfare benefits. Some have attempted to reduce the number of people on welfare by introducing incentives to enterprises to hire disabled people, youth, the long-term unemployed and others or to the beneficiaries themselves, to stimulate their interest in training or job-searching.

135. The present social welfare policy of the Government of the Netherlands is characterized by a shift, from curative measures towards preventive actions, in order to prevent people from being pushed into the vicious circle of marginalization, then segregation and ultimately to complete dependence on doles and social benefits. Another policy change has been the creation of cooperative links between government (local, regional and central), citizens and private organizations, sharing their respective responsibilities in the social welfare fields.

136. The salient features of this innovative Dutch welfare policy are as follows:

(a) Cooperation at all levels of government service (central, regional and local) with citizens and private organizations;

(b) Innovative social projects and programmes applying a coordinated approach to resource-allocation in the welfare sector;

(c) Selection of a priority welfare theme directed towards the most vulnerable groups on a yearly basis, based on scientific research and information gathered from grass-root sources;

(d) Measures to improve the quality of welfare and care-delivery systems.

137. Within this new framework of relations, local governments and private bodies and institutions are the major players in promoting policy measures. The former are also responsible for the execution of social programmes. If the municipalities are too small or have meagre resources, intermunicipal or regional government cooperation can be sought. The central Government's responsibilities are to monitor socio-economic and socio-cultural developments and to adjust its social welfare policy with regard to changes taking place in

the country. Such a new organization will increase the efficiency of social welfare policy.

138. The Government has also undertaken measures to improve welfare methodology and scientific research on social issues and policies. In the Government's view, this will help to make social policies and programmes more effective. The proposed innovative methodology includes the following steps: an analysis of social issues, in order to have a clear-cut picture of the problems involved; an inventory of possible solutions to the issues concerned; and a testing of ideas for possible solutions as to their feasibility and effectiveness.

139. During 1992, the Government intends to set up several innovative social programmes and projects based on the findings accumulated through the new methodology and research. They are:

(a) Innovative preventive measures for very young persons (0-4 years of age) and migrant youth, to ensure that they do not require additional welfare assistance at a later age;

(b) Special programmes to ensure that both native-born persons and migrants and also disabled persons are able to participate in school and work life successfully;

(c) A programme dealing with migrants, especially the new arrivals, in order to assist and promote their fullest possible integration into Dutch society;

(d) A programme aimed at promoting the fullest possible participation and integration of senior citizens into the mainstream of society.

140. Improving the quality of welfare and care services is another current concern of the Government. A regrouping of the existing structure of welfare provisions has been undertaken in such a way that integrated working methods can be developed and cooperative networks established.

141. Finland's social welfare system is comprehensive and universal. However, the country recently initiated a full review, because the social and economic situation has changed and the financial resources available for supporting the welfare system have decreased. The necessity to provide municipal primary health care and occupational health care, mostly on a free-of-charge basis, has been questioned. It has been suggested that the users' share of funding has to be increased, where possible. In the area of education, the same doubts have been expressed with regard to the provision of free meals at elementary schools.

142. Some other changes in the welfare system have also been recommended in order to minimize the costs of the social services while making them more efficient. Thus, it has been suggested that the State subsidy system, which aims at the equalization of regional differences in the availability of financial resources for social welfare and health care, should be reviewed in terms of the decision-making process, and that municipalities' freedom of choice in the provision of services should be increased. This would bring decision-making closer to the clients. At the same time, under the new

arrangement local circumstances and needs would be better taken into consideration.

143. The Government of Finland has been continuously expanding social welfare services in two major areas: services for the elderly, and child care. This emphasis is quite understandable when the dominant social development trends are considered - ageing of the population, and women's growing participation in the labour market. In respect of the child-care system, Finland developed a comprehensive system of maternity, paternity and parental allowances and a system of care leave. In the past 10 years, Finnish family policy has focused on improving the care arrangements for small children. Child day care has been developed, along with a system of home-care allowances, so that in 1993 all children under four will have access to municipal day care or their parents will be paid a home-care allowance, whichever the parents wish. The statutory right to a place in a day-care facility will be extended to all pre-school children in 1995.

144. In the past few years, the Government of Portugal has been preoccupied with furthering the country's social security system and labour laws. The major emphasis in the area of social security has been on the extension of the existing social security schemes and on the creation of new ones. For example, a non-contributory scheme designed to protect low-income groups in cases of unemployment, entry into working life, disability, old-age and death and would include compensation for dependants who are not covered by any social security scheme. The overall degree of social protection of the population has been raised as a result of the enlargement of the scope of the general scheme for employees. Occupational groups that had either been unprotected or had had special schemes were integrated into the general social protection scheme.

145. In respect of youth, the disabled and other vulnerable social groups, Portugal has, in addition to enlarging welfare benefits, made efforts to stimulate the involvement of such groups in productive activity through the provision of vocational training, on the one hand, and of economic incentives to business firms for hiring them, on the other. In order to further the protection of children, Portugal issued new legislation in 1991 concerning the use of child labour (Decree No. 396/91). The minimum age for employment was raised to 15 years. In 1995, when the years of compulsory schooling increase, that age will be pushed to 16. The new law forbids employing children in certain types of work either because of its nature or because of the conditions in which it is carried out. Minors are granted special rights which seek to encourage them to continue their schooling or vocational training.

146. Portuguese labour legislation recently underwent a significant review. The legal framework for collective labour regulations, stipulated in Decree No. 519/C1/79 of 29 December, was amended in Decree No. 87/89 of 23 March 1989 to make collective bargaining more effective as an instrument in settling working conditions and labour disputes. The legal limit for hours of work was also reviewed in 1991; Decree Law No. 398/91 reduced the maximum weekly number of hours of work from 48 to 44 and made the rules that regulate the working day more flexible.

147. Legislation concerned with overtime work and holidays underwent some change too. A new law (Decree No. 398/91) envisages an increased rate of renumeration for overtime (50 per cent for the first hour and 75 per cent for the following hours and fractions thereof on a normal working day, and 100 per cent for overtime work during weekly rest days). Decree No. 397/91 of 16 October modified the previous legislation which had regulated paid holidays. In accordance with the new law, workers are entitled to 22 days annual holiday in each civil year. The major innovative features of this law are the following:

(a) The most desired dates for leave shall, at the enterprise level, be allotted in such a way as to benefit all workers equally;

(b) The principle of simultaneous leave for both husband and wife or for unmarried couples living together for more than two years and working at the same enterprise shall be respected.

IV. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

148. During the past decade, multilateral and bilateral development assistance has increasingly concentrated on supporting the structural adjustment efforts of developing countries. The main focus in the different adjustment programmes was on developing and strengthening market agents and institutions and reforming the public sector. Privatization of state-owned enterprises was seen as the most effective way to solve several problems - the weakness of national private entrepreneurship, the inefficiency of public enterprises, internal and external indebtedness, and the low rate of economic growth.

149. The early results of structural adjustment were disappointing. It did not produce immediate economic recovery or a rapid release from the debt trap. If measured in human terms, the impact was adverse in some developing countries as a result of their Governments' curbs on spending on social programmes and elimination of subsidies. In most of the countries undergoing structural adjustment, the privatization of State-owned enterprises did not immediately bring the benefits expected. Moreover, the short-term effect was an increase in the number of unemployed. Even in those countries whose efforts had been heavily supported by donors, the human costs were high.

150. The international community has come to realize that the nature of the social and economic problems of the developing countries is much more complex than was previously thought. The scope of human tragedy there alarmed the international community. It has become apparent that without a strong public sector, there is no possibility of easing the human costs of structural adjustment. On the other hand, accumulated experience provided evidence that neglect of the human factor may be responsible for both economic and environmental disasters. A new point of view is that human resources development may be a key to successful development. Human development indicators have come to be regarded as the main criteria for measuring the degree of success or failure of national development efforts and multilateral development assistance.

151. At the end of the 1980s, the international community made strong commitments to increase its support for countries striving to eradicate mass poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and to pursue a path of participatory development. These commitments have been expressed in a number of important international documents - among them the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the Den Bosch Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

152. The major donor countries have re-examined their position on the most troubling global social and economic problems in light of the new development thinking. Their revised approach to those problems and suggestions on ways to address them were presented in the policy statement on development cooperation in the 1990s, adopted at the 1989 High-level Meeting of the members of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD.

153. Developing countries also contributed to ongoing international dialogue on development issues. Their view on the defects of development in the 1980s and the strategies needed to redress them was presented in the report of the South Commission, The Challenge to the South 11/ and in other documents adopted at regional forums.

154. It appears that, with respect to international cooperation for development, Member States have achieved a consensus on at least some of the goals and means of implementation. Priority areas of cooperation have been identified. However, significant disagreement still exists between donors and developing countries with respect to certain development issues and emerging new conditionalities. With the restructuring of the United Nations system currently under way and with the strengthening of the coordination of multilateral and bilateral support efforts, it is expected that the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance will be improved.

A. Availability of resources for international support actions

155. The relatively rapid expansion of development assistance in the 1970s gave way to a stagnation in aid flows during the 1980s. The total net flows of real aid from all sources grew from $25,540 million in 1970/71 to $55,383 million in 1980/81. However, in 1989/90, they constituted only $55,174 million, which was $209 million lower than the total at the beginning of the 1980s (see table 1).

156. The stagnation of aid flows may be partly attributed to a decline in development assistance provided by Arab donors and by the former Socialist countries. Since 1980/81, the development assistance from Arab donors decreased from $12,703 million to $3,639 million in 1989/90. Simultaneously, the volume of resources provided by the former Socialist countries also shrank, from $4,044 million to $2,630 million (table 1).

157. This decline was offset to some degree by an increase in aid flows from the Development Assistance Committee country members and from some other country donors, enough to sustain aid flows at the same level as at the beginning of the 1980s but not enough to enlarge them noticeably.

158. The total net ODA flows in current prices to developing countries grew from $52.9 billion in 1989 to $62.6 billion in 1990, of which bilateral disbursement constituted $40.7 billion and $49.4 billion, and multilateral - $12.2 billion and $13.2 billion, respectively.

159. Over the past decade, the increase in ODA net real flows to sub-Saharan Africa was at an annual average growth rate of 4.1 per cent. Development assistance to Asian countries has been stagnant, and to North Africa and the Middle East it has been growing at the rate of 1.2 per cent per year. ODA to the countries of the Western Hemisphere has recovered to the level of the mid-1980s and amounted to $8 billion in 1989/90. 12/

160. Net disbursements of concessional flows by multilateral organizations in current prices grew from $1,184 million in 1970/71 to $13,204 million in 1989/90, while non-concessional flows increased during the same period from $819 million to $10,188 million. 13/

Table 1. Long-term trends in official development assistance from all sources

(Millions of United States dollars at 1989 prices and exchange rates)

Source	1970/71	1975/76	1980/81	1989/90
DAC	25 540	29 632	37 356	47 640 a/
Non-DAC OECD	--	87	307	792
Arab donors	--	11 447	12 703	3 639
Central and Eastern Europe b/	--	3 266	4 044	2 630
Non-Arab least developed country donors	--	2 778	973	473
Total	25 540	47 210	55 383	55 174 a/

Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Cooperation: 1991 Report (Paris, 1991), table 2, pp. 172-173.

Note: DAC = Development Assistance Committee of OECD.

a/ Excluding debt forgiveness of non-ODA claims in 1990.

b/ OECD secretariat estimates up to 1988, not comparable with those for 1989 and 1990 which are based on information provided by Soviet officials. The rouble figures were converted using the commercial exchange rate.

161. A significant expansion of net disbursements of concessional flows by major financial multilateral institutions, especially by the International Development Association, has been registered since the mid-1980s (see table 2). A similar trend has been observed in the lending activities of the regional development banks.

162. Net concessional resource flows from the United Nations specialized agencies grew from $529 million in 1970/71 to $3,900 million in 1989/90 (see table 3). The most noticeable increase in grant disbursements since the mid-1980s has been observed in the case of UNDP (53.5 per cent), UNICEF (79.5 per cent) and UNRWA (41.7 per cent). Grant disbursements from other agencies either decreased, as in the case of the WFP, or remained at the same level.

163. The stagnation in ODA flows to the developing countries during the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s has caused concern among many developing countries that the donor countries did not reach the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, to which the majority of DAC members had subscribed. 14/ In 1990, in spite of an increase in real terms over its level in 1989, the average ODA/GNP ratio for DAC members was only 0.35 per cent.

Table 2. Net disbursements of concessional flows by major financial institutions, 1970-1990

(Millions of dollars)

	1970/71	1975/76	1980	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
IDA	225	1 198	1 543	2 492	2 599	3 327	3 530	3 567	3 266	3 912
IBRD	--	8	107	41	34	4	--	--	--	--
IDB	219	299	326	438	351	283	121	134	144	155
African DF	--	7	96	111	210	272	374	351	493	603
Asian DF	3	72	149	304	393	416	540	707	919	1 101
IFAD	--	--	54	170	270	286	366	102	(717)	(120)
Subtotal	447	1 584	2 275	3 556	3 857	4 588	4 931	4 861	4 939	5 891
IMF	--	--	1 636	-132	-298	-537	-190	-124	719	321
Other institutions a/	--	14	46	17	29	29	38	45	44	(40)
Subtotal	--	14	1 682	-115	-269	-508	-152	-79	763	(361)
Total	447	1 598	3 957	3 441	3 588	4 080	4 779	4 782	5 702	6 252

Source: OECD, Development Cooperation, 1991 Report (Paris, 1991), table 28.

Note: IDA = International Development Association
IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
DF = Development Fund
IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development

a/ Caribbean Development Bank and Council of Europe (social loans).

Table 3. Net disbursements of concessional flows by the United Nations, 1970-1990

(Millions of dollars)

	1970/71	1975/76	1980	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
WFP	125	350	539	679	779	649	720	878	762	--
UNDP	219	378	660	596	635	769	786	914	975	--
UNHCR	8	81	465	397	418	387	398	477	490	--
UNRWA	45	99	157	191	187	187	207	231	265	--
UNICEF	47	114	247	244	279	326	365	400	501	--
UNTA	49	73	35	217	295	254	314	268	242	--
UNFPA	--	--	150	119	127	101	107	129	157	--
Other United Nations	36	259	235	319	327	380	426	479	488	--
Subtotal	529	1 354	2 488	2 762	3 047	3 053	3 323	3 776	3 880	(3 900)

Source: OECD, Development Cooperation, 1991 Report (Paris, 1991), table 28.

Note: WFP = World Food Programme
UNDP = United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR = Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA = United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund
UNTA = United Nations technical assistance
UNFPA = United Nations Population Fund

164. In response to criticism of their aid efforts, the major donor countries have raised the issue of the efficiency and effectiveness of ODA. They expressed concern over the insignificance of its impact on the development process in poor countries and initiated a review of the very concept, principles and conditionality behind it. They expressed the view that ODA could not be the only answer to development problems. They emphasized the primary importance of domestic measures and reforms in stimulating development. They argued that ODA, on the other hand, might play a specific role in smoothing the pain of economic stabilization and the enactment of structural reforms and in helping to sustain or to support the human development process. The donors also believe that ODA should be aimed at strengthening national capacities to maintain the dynamics of economic growth. They expressed their desire to introduce human and environmental elements into most development assistance programmes and projects. As for the conditionalities of ODA, the major donors unequivocally stated that those countries in which gross violations of human rights and mass-scale oppression had been a norm of governance could not count on international support. 15/

165. In 1991, DAC completed work on the principles of evaluation, projects, technical cooperation and programme assistance. The principles of technical cooperation set out by DAC called for recipient countries "to develop their own long-term solutions to development problems". The principles are as follows:

(a) Set as strategic objectives of technical cooperation long-term capacity-building in developing countries rather than immediate short-term performance improvement;

(b) Emphasize the central role of developing countries in the planning, design and management of technical cooperation;

(c) Stress the essential importance of improved planning in the context of coordinated support for sectoral objectives and policies and, in particular, use of a programme rather than a project-by-project approach;

(d) Encourage "ownership" - i.e., responsibility and control of technical cooperation programmes and projects at all stages by the intended beneficiaries through participatory approaches, including local non-governmental participation;

(e) Emphasize the key importance, for sustainable development and self-reliance, of long-term institution-building, especially in the areas of policy analysis and development management;

(f) Take into account the new recognition of private-sector needs;

(g) Encourage greater use of local expertise and existing structures;

(h) Define objectives in terms of outcomes to be achieved rather than inputs to be provided;

(i) Stress the need to pay greater attention to the costs and cost-effectiveness of technical cooperation activities. 16/

166. Recently adopted new programme assistance principles are also in line with the new ODA strategy of DAC members. They incorporated the following essential elements:

(a) Programme assistance plays a key role in promoting policy reform and structural adjustment, which are essential for improved development. There is a continuing major role for programme assistance, incorporating the constantly evolving lessons of experience and effectively linking broader social, political and economic policy concerns;

(b) Programme assistance complements other aid instruments, in particular, technical cooperation and project financing for long-term investment. All these instruments have their specific contribution to make. It is essential that they be adapted to specific country situations and needs and be used in a coordinated, mutually reinforcing way;

(c) Developing countries themselves are responsible for determining and implementing their programmes and policies and for the impact made on their economies and people;

(d) Capacity-building for policy and programme planning and implementation and the extension of substantial programme assistance must go hand-in-hand;

(e) Adequate safeguards and monitoring arrangements to ensure effective use of programme assistance, including adherence to agreed policies, are essential for improved economic performance and are in the interests of recipients and donors alike;

(f) Programme assistance requires strongly coordinated approaches among recipient country, bilateral donors and relevant multilateral institutions;

(g) Policy dialogues on essential aspects of policy reform and structural adjustment should have a strong multilateral dimension;

(h) As developing countries make progress in improving their basic policy environment and in strengthening their administrative capacity, it should be possible to move towards aid relations emphasizing broad programme approaches and objectives and a basic reliance on national institutions for programme implementation. In order to make progress in this direction, strong efforts at institution-building and policy reform are required. 17/

167. This brief review of the situation in resource availability provides a disquieting picture. While accepting the importance of the steps undertaken to make development assistance more efficient, one cannot ignore the fact that the volume of resources channelled to the developing countries has been far smaller than needed. It is difficult not to notice that the number of direct and indirect conditionalities imposed on recipient countries has had a tendency to grow. At the same time, the access of developing countries to such key areas of international cooperation as trade, technology and financial resources remains heavily restricted due to protectionism and discrimination. The suffocating debt overhanging many developing countries has also not been significantly reduced.

B. Activity of multilateral institutions

168. Since 1989, the goal and priority mix of the major international financial institutions has been changing (fig. I). While the provision of debt relief and support for the structural adjustment efforts of developing countries remains a priority on their agendas, certain new elements have been introduced in non-project lending. There is, first of all, the so-called "social element" of structural adjustment, which means that the international financial institutions have to incorporate into structural adjustment programmes some additional measures aimed at diminishing the adverse effects of structural adjustment on low-income and vulnerable groups of the population. An example of such measures can be found in the activity of the Inter-American Development Bank, which has been providing support for social emergency funds in the countries of the region undergoing economic stabilization and structural adjustment. During 1991, the Bank approved loans to help establish and implement social emergency funds in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and Peru. 18/

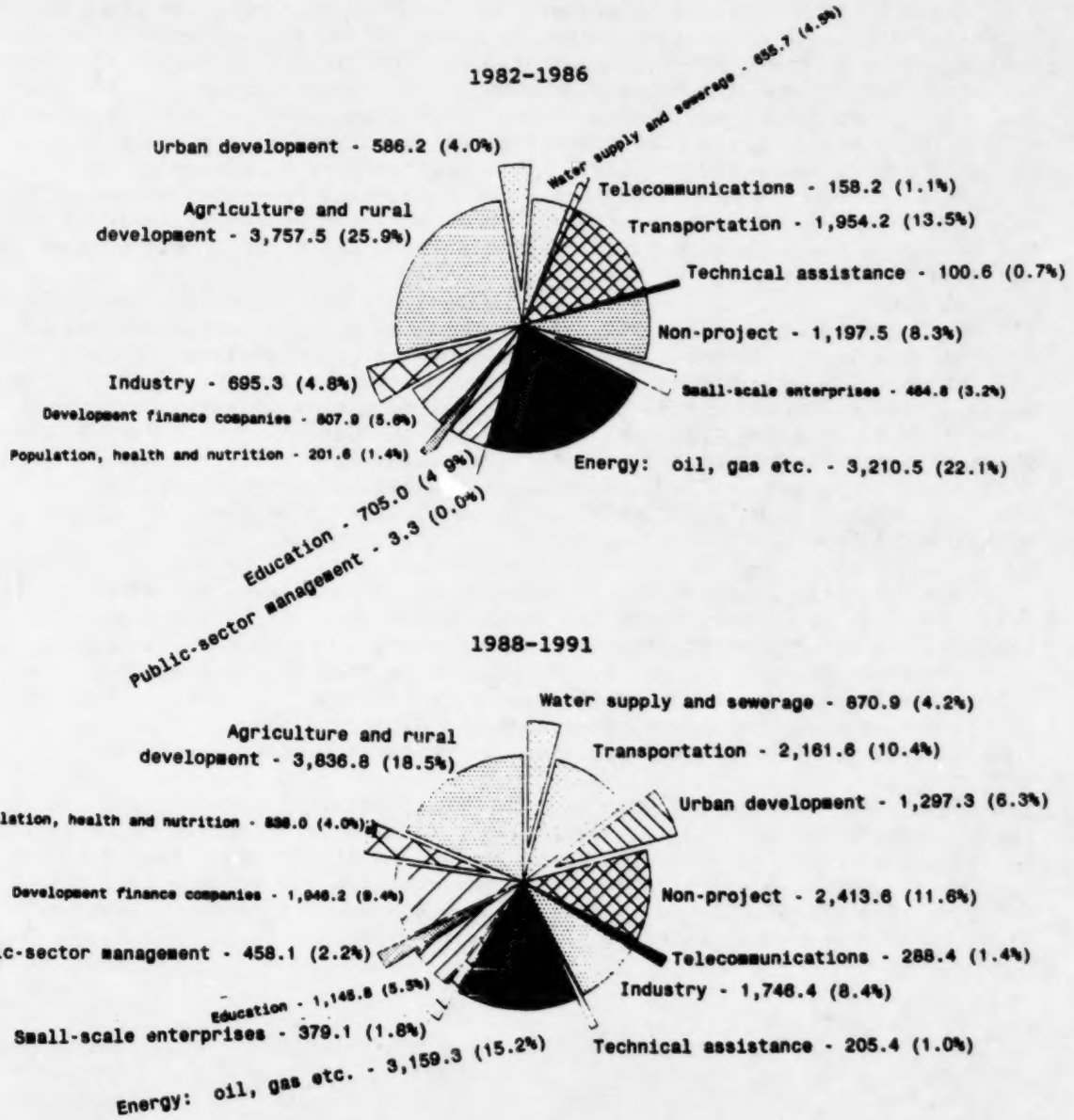
169. Poverty alleviation is still one of the major priorities of international financial institutions. However, the general and specific approaches to the problem have also undergone some review. According to one IBRD report, "... there was a general agreement that economic growth is a necessary precondition for ameliorating poverty; no attempts to eliminate poverty can really succeed without sustained economic growth brought about by efficient overall policies. It was also recognized that growth, while necessary, is not sufficient to address the hard-core poverty problems in many developing countries." 19/ In light of this new approach, the strategies, principles and guidelines of the operational activities of international financial institutions have been re-examined and renewed in order to make them more poverty-aware. The need for "a two-pronged strategy: a combination of efficiency-oriented general policies and special measures directed specifically to assist and protect the most vulnerable groups" 20/ was met by incorporating a poverty element in traditional project-lending and, in some cases, like the IBRD/IDA, by designing a Core Poverty Programme which would complement the regular operations of financial institutions.

170. The specific core-poverty measures differ from programmes and projects aimed at the promotion of economic growth only in means, not in ends. In terms of their fundamental objective, they complement growth-inducing programmes. At the same time, they represent "targeted interventions to assist the poor directly" by providing productive physical assets (transport and irrigation, for example), by improving their human capital endowment (through education and training), or their standards of living and life expectancy (through the provision of food, primary health care services, water and sewerage). 21/

171. Other relevant programmes address the problems of specific social groups, like women in development or micro-entrepreneurs. Considering the fact that women in some poor regions are solely responsible for family welfare, food production and the collection of household fuelwood and water, any attempt to reduce poverty is doomed to fail if measures to strengthen women's ability to produce and to provide for their families are not undertaken. Micro-entrepreneurial activity, on the other hand, is believed to have a potential for growth. It may become a source of more stable employment and

Figure I. IBRD/IDA lending to developing countries, by sector

(Annual average, millions of dollars)


1982-1986
Water supply and sewerage - 655.7 (4.5%)
Urban development - 586.2 (4.0%)
Telecommunications - 158.2 (1.1%)
Agriculture and rural development - 3,757.5 (25.9%)
Transportation - 1,954.2 (13.5%)
Technical assistance - 100.6 (0.7%)
Non-project - 1,197.5 (8.3%)
Industry - 695.3 (4.8%)
Small-scale enterprises - 464.8 (3.2%)
Development finance companies - 807.9 (5.6%)
Population, health and nutrition - 201.6 (1.4%)
Energy: oil, gas etc. - 3,210.5 (22.1%)
Education - 705.0 (4.9%)
Public-sector management - 3.3 (0.0%)
1988-1991
Water supply and sewerage - 870.9 (4.2%)
Agriculture and rural development - 3,836.8 (18.5%)
Transportation - 2,161.6 (10.4%)
Urban development - 1,297.3 (6.3%)
Population, health and nutrition - 836.0 (4.0%)
Development finance companies - 1,946.2 (9.4%)
Non-project - 2,413.6 (11.6%)
Public-sector management - 458.1 (2.2%)
Telecommunications - 288.4 (1.4%)
Education - 1,145.8 (5.5%)
Industry - 1,746.4 (8.4%)
Small-scale enterprises - 379.1 (1.8%)
Technical assistance - 205.4 (1.0%)
Energy: oil, gas etc. - 3,159.3 (15.2%)

Source: World Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Washington, D.C., 1992).

income for a significant segment of the urban and rural population in developing countries, once micro-entrepreneurs receive access to the resources of formal financial institutions and some form of government support. The removal of institutional obstacles and the development of structures linking micro-enterprises to the formal sector will create conditions favourable to their expansion which, it is believed, will benefit the poor.

172. Many United Nations agencies have been carrying out programmes whose purpose has been to assist women and the urban and rural poor in the informal sector. Some of them, like ILO projects, resulted in higher levels of employment and income for vulnerable groups. The Organization has assisted many developing countries in norm-setting activities aimed at the improvement of the legal status and social protection of women, disabled persons and migrant workers and their families. It also transfers knowledge and experience through technical assistance in managerial and vocational training. The emphasis is on achieving equality of opportunity in training and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of training. These programmes are usually low-cost and non-formal. 22/

173. At present, practically all major international financial institutions are involved in the financing of poverty-reducing programmes and projects. The IBRD and IDA provided loans for 57 core poverty programmes in 1990. The total amount disbursed was $3,761 million. Twenty-nine of the programmes were in Africa, 12 in Asia, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. For the period 1991-1993, the number of such specific programmes is expected to reach 164, of which 95 will be in Africa. The total amount of resources to be lent will be about $9,289.4 million. 23/

174. Most of these programmes deal with the rural population and rural development. Among them, there are rural credit projects in Benin and Guinea; a national seed project in Nigeria, whose purpose is to improve the supply of seed for smallholders; a water supply project in Burundi aimed at the rehabilitation and construction of about 40 water supply systems in rural areas; public works employment programmes in Niger and Senegal; and agricultural services projects in Senegal, Gambia and other countries. 24/

175. The Asian Development Bank has approved 29 projects with poverty reduction components in 1991. The projects were focused largely on specific targeted groups living below the poverty line - small farmers, landless labourers, poor fishermen, upland tribal communities and urban poor. The major recipient countries were Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan, sharing among them 11 projects, totalling $917 million. 25/

176. The Inter-American Development Bank intends to maintain poverty reduction among its major objectives and "do its utmost to ensure that 50 per cent of its lending programme should be allocated to benefit the low-income groups." 26/

177. According to the Bank's own estimates, in 1991 "45 per cent of the number of new loans approved by the Bank totalling $2.4 billion" were responsible for 43 per cent of the benefits received by low-income persons. 27/ In 1991 the Bank provided $45 million for micro-enterprises. There are two types of credit loans: global credit loans, which are executed through national central institutions, like a central bank or a development bank; and small project credit loans, channelled by national financial intermediaries to micro-enterprises. "The micro-enterprise global credit loans range from $7 million to $50 million, while small projects are limited to $500,000 each and ordinarily benefit between 300 and 1,000 micro-producers." 28/

178. Human resources development has occupied an important place in the operational activity of the major international financial institutions. The sectoral analysis of some of their lending indicates that they have increased support for education, health and nutrition sectors. However, it is quite difficult to establish a true scale of lending for the purpose of human resources development. First, many of the sectoral projects and programmes of international financial institutions include a component aimed at human resources development, such as the training of farmers within rural development projects. Secondly, there has been a tendency to broaden the definition of human resources development by incorporating living and working conditions and other socio-political factors affecting the functioning of human beings. Thirdly, activities aimed at human resources development interweave with others, such as poverty alleviation, population growth reduction, rural/urban development, and women in development.

179. Since 1989, the international financial institutions have gradually changed their approach to human resources development. As the lending activity of the Asian Development Bank illustrates, there has been a turning away from educational and training systems designed to produce skills to meet the needs of strategic economic sectors. The Bank's operational scope has broadened and includes the entire educational sector (primary, informal and environmental education).

180. The modalities of the Bank's policy towards the health sector have also changed. There has been a shift in its support for the sector from developing urban teaching hospitals and rural primary health care to strengthening and expanding the health delivery infrastructure. Another innovation was the inclusion of a health element in its assistance to the population sector. It aims to assist the countries of the region to stabilize and reduce population growth through health education programmes on family planning. 29/

181. An analysis of the sectoral distribution of lending by the leading development agencies confirms that a refocusing of their operational activities towards human resources development is taking place (fig. I). The share of lending for education, population, health and nutrition in total IBRD/IDA lending increased from 6.1 per cent in 1988 to 17.6 per cent in 1991 (see fig. II). However, as figure III indicates, whereas the share for population, health and nutrition steadily increased, that of education

declined (1.3 percentage points) from 1990. The share of population, health and nutrition in total IBRD/IDA loans over the same period expanded from 1.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent (fig. III).

182. The regional distribution of resources lent to the developing countries by the IBRD and IDA for education, population, health and nutrition shows that the share of Africa and Latin America/the Caribbean has been growing since 1988, while the relative share of Asia diminished (fig. II). From the average annual regional share-structure in 1982-1986 of 15.7 per cent, the African share increased to 25.6 per cent in 1988, then dropped to 11.2 per cent in 1989. In 1990 it recovered to a level close to that of 1988. In 1991, however, it declined again to 18.3 per cent. Latin America and the Caribbean saw a steady increase in their share in total resources provided by the IBRD/IDA. Asia's share, although still the largest, was 15.4 per cent lower in 1991 than its average annual share in the 1982-1986 period.

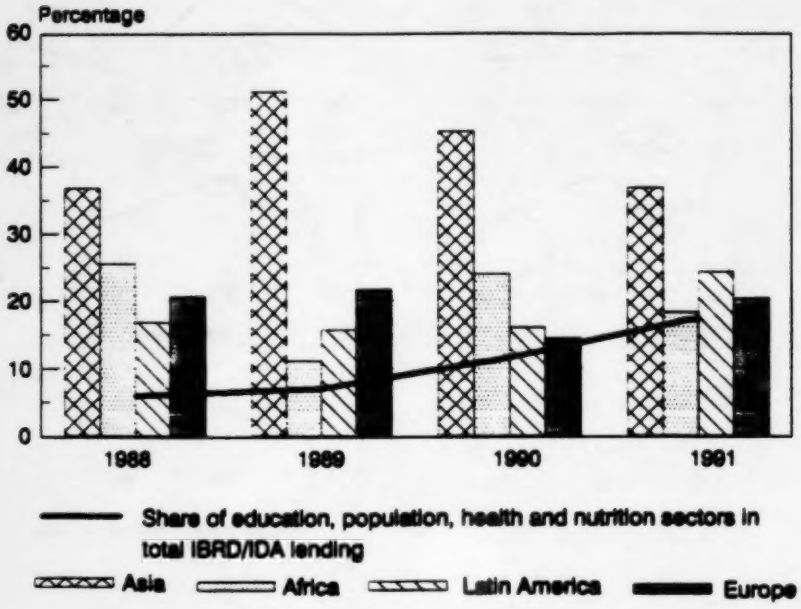
183. For the United Nations specialized agencies, the human dimension of the development process has always been a major concern. 30/ However, the targets of their activity have been the most vulnerable groups, the poorest and the victims of man-made and natural disasters. Their emphasis on emergency/ humanitarian assistance was recently strengthened as a result of their growing involvement in peace-keeping operations.

184. Another factor responsible for the concentration of their activities on humanitarian and emergency assistance has been the deterioration of social conditions in many developing countries, including those with low or negative growth rates and/or high debt burdens and those undergoing structural or systemic changes. The concentration has been especially characteristic of such agencies as UNDRO, UNHCR, UNRWA, WHO, FAO, WFP, IAEA and UNICEF.

185. At the same time, the specialized agencies have been involved in assisting developing countries and the former centrally planned economies in their restructuring efforts. In its response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General, FAO indicates that the agency's assistance to countries in policy analysis and advice has focused on analysis of policy options that provide a firm basis for structural adjustment programmes, assessment of the impact of adjustment on the agricultural and rural sectors, and implementation of sector policy reviews to guide decisions on development strategies. The agency also assisted some African countries in their efforts to negotiate structural adjustment loans from international financial institutions.

186. The specialized agencies have been also concerned with the effectiveness of their support measures. There has been some dissatisfaction with the results of certain past programmes and projects. It was felt that the executing mechanism - that is, channelling grants mainly through central governmental institutions - did not ensure that they reached all of the targeted groups. It was also felt that certain programmes failed to produce the effect expected because the targeted groups had not been involved in the decision-making process of the project.

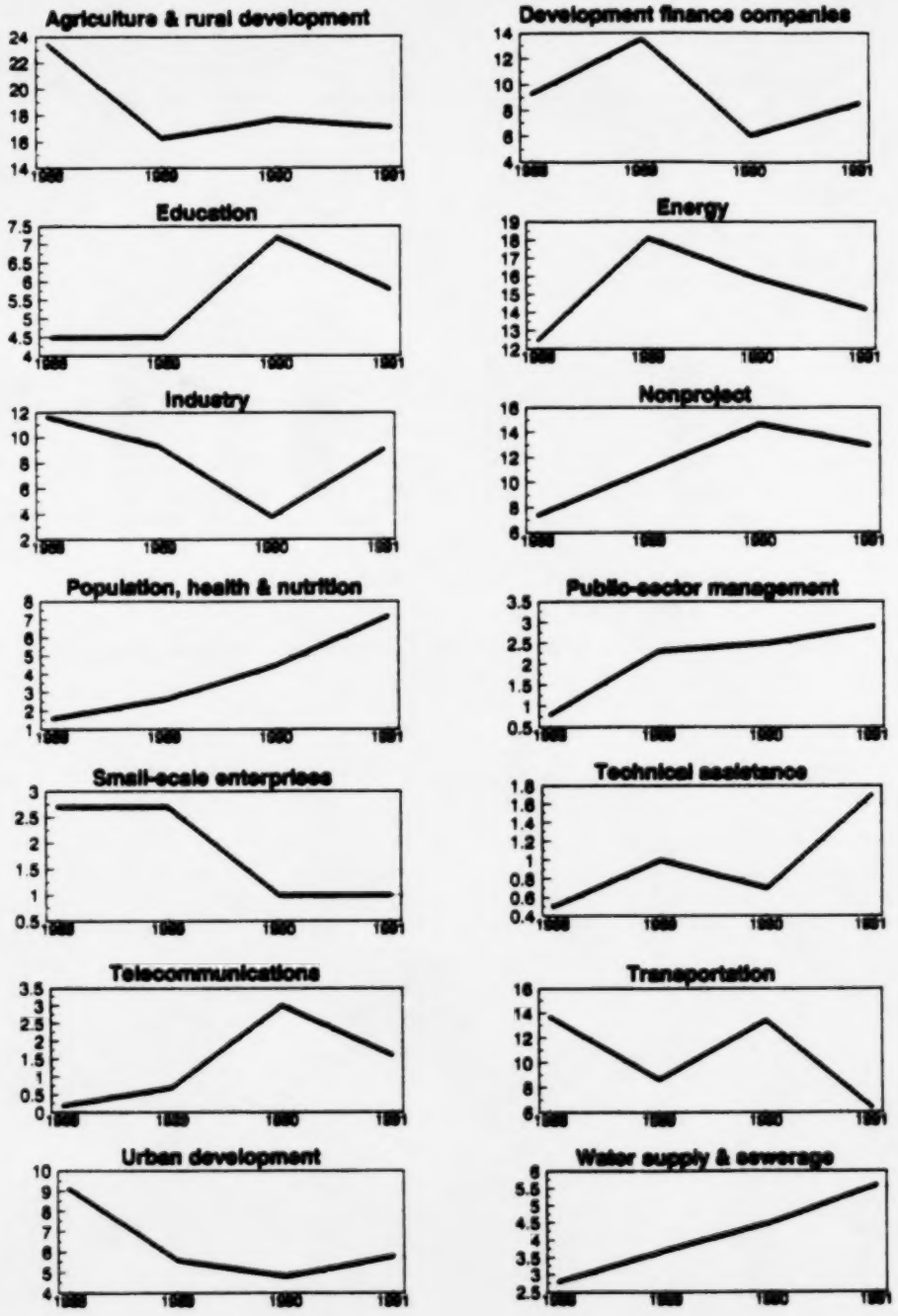
Figure II. Distribution of total IBRD/IDA lending for education, population, health and nutrition among regions



Source: World Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Washington, D.C., 1992).

Figure III. Sectoral shares, in total IBRD/IDA lending, 1988-1991

(Percentage)



Source: World Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Washington, D.C., 1992).

187. In the past few years, some specialized agencies have attempted to decentralize and target the allocation of development assistance by involving local governments, communities, trade unions and grass-roots organizations in the decision-making process. WFP, for example, reports that its forestry activities in India provide employment to tribal groups, scheduled castes and others on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, by involving people living in or near plantation forests in the selection of the appropriate tree species to be planted and in resource management arrangements. These programmes enable poor men and women to acquire a stake in the survival of the trees they plant and to retain harvesting rights to the minor forest produce they need most. Additional social needs are often met using cash contributed by project beneficiary groups in exchange for a small part of the local value of the food rations they receive. Funds gathered in this way have been used to provide local communities with drinking water, equipped clinics, schools or child-care facilities, access to roads and other social services. UNCHS (Habitat) actively supports the participation of poor communities and their organizations in programmes to upgrade their housing, infrastructure and services.

188. UNDP has been carrying out an innovative programme, Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE), which may serve as an illustration for the characteristics of the new agency activities. As the directors of the programme state: "PRODERE is not the classic post-war relief operation; rather it aims to improve the living conditions of those affected deeply while helping to rebuild - or create for the first time - connections within torn communities that will help them sustain economic well-being long after the programme disappears." 31/ The programme funds the construction of community centres, schools and clinics; the training of teachers and junior medical personnel; courses in literacy; new agricultural techniques; the restoration or build-up of the physical infrastructure, and many other activities aimed at the revival of war-afflicted small towns and rural communities throughout the subregion.

189. This systemic, multidimensional approach to the socio-economic problems of developing countries has become characteristic to the United Nations specialized agencies. In many respects, it has been the result of a continuous collective appraisal and rethinking of the experience accumulated over time by the international community. Although the major development goals, proclaimed more than 20 years ago in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, have not changed significantly, the priorities, approaches and emphases have been reviewed and renewed, as the understanding of the forces behind development have deepened. Thus, emphasis is on assisting the recipient countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to sustain the development process.

190. This approach has been re-examined in response to criticism from receiving countries, particularly, to two shortcomings: bureaucratization of the decision-making process of the specialized organizations; and underutilization of local expertise during the preparation and execution of programmes and projects. The United Nations agencies contribute to the institutional build-up of developing countries in several ways. For example, they carry out research in order to identify the nature and the role of the existing formal and informal institutional structures in the development process. This helps them to acquire a better comprehension of which factors

are responsible for institutional changes, which of them make an institution efficient and effective, and which do not. 32/ They provide advisory and technical services and train national personnel.

191. At present, a significant amount of knowledge has been accumulated by United Nations institutions in this area. One of the most important findings is that the efficiency and the effectiveness of modern institutions depend upon participation - the degree and scope of people's participation in the development process. This factor is also believed to be responsible for the sustainability of institutions and of the development process itself. Another finding is that the accountability and transparency of the institutions themselves are important factors in making them effective. Finally, the human factor with its qualitative parameters and the cultural factor are also vital to the functioning and development of institutions.

192. The international community's response to the research efforts of the United Nations agencies in the area of institutional development has had policy implications which called for a participatory approach to the socio-economic problems of developing countries and for the provision of international assistance for institutional build-up in developing countries. Although the United Nations institutions have always emphasized the importance of people's participation in carrying out their programmes in developing countries, they differed on how to achieve this objective. Some institutions, like the World Bank group and IMF, have been able, with the agreement of borrowers, to use conditionality as a means of pursuing their policies. Other specialized United Nations institutions utilize the negotiation process to persuade a country to introduce changes in the execution of a programme/project funded by them. Negotiation helps avoid tension and conflict between an agency and a recipient country and diminishes the potential risks of any mistakes.

193. Examples illustrating how this participatory approach works can be found in the activities of each specialized United Nations agency. For instance, in Mali, UNDP and other agencies organized unemployed women college graduates as garbage collectors, hygiene trainers and family planning counsellors in their project for the promotion of the role of women in water and environmental sanitation services. The women formed a garbage collection cooperative and won a municipal contract to clear trash from an area in Bamako. In Nigeria, UNDP provided assistance in preparing the Government's master plan for waste disposal and drainage and the creation of the Ibadan Wastes Disposal Board. 33/

194. WFP has been creative in its relief programmes in African countries. In Lesotho, for example, since 1990 WFP has been providing school children in the poorest areas with mid-morning lunches. Before phasing out its food programme, WFP is going to undertake some activities aimed at strengthening the sustainability of the local schools. It will continue to provide assistance to those schools for a transitory two-year period for establishing vegetable gardens, growing field crops, building water systems, planting trees and keeping poultry, pigs or rabbits. During the practical agricultural sessions, children will work and learn in the gardens and chicken houses. At the same time, schools can request food for work as an incentive to communities to participate in the construction of water systems or in the upgrading of roads. Consequently, schools will have to collect parental contributions and school fees which will be used for school maintenance,

books, uniforms and lunches. The programme directly involves all interested parties: children, teachers, community members, local and central governments. 34/

195. The institutional component in the technical assistance programmes of the major international financial agencies, particularly the World Bank and the IMF, has also been increased. The main reason has been "the increasing recognition that sustainable economic development cannot take place - and proper economic policies cannot be carried out - if the national institutions and economic management are inadequate to the tasks". 35/ The financial agencies arrived at this conclusion after carefully studying their own experience with technical assistance and structural adjustment. Their findings indicated that the failure of many projects had been caused by the inability of local institutions to keep the projects going after aid funds had been exhausted. Out of 550 projects evaluated by the World Bank, "nearly half had sustainability difficulties; 15 per cent were rated unlikely to be sustained, 9 per cent marginally sustainable, and 24 per cent uncertain". 36/ A similar picture emerged from studies conducted by donor countries. For example, the United States Agency for International Development established that out of the 212 projects it evaluated, 26 per cent "earned strongly negative ratings, 56 per cent got marginal marks, and a mere 11 per cent of the projects were considered to have strong prospects for being sustained after the termination of US assistance". 37/

196. Other factors constraining the efficient utilization of technical assistance were found to be: a lack of local human resource capacities; weak or wavering commitments of borrowing Governments; projects that are "overdesigned" and do not fit the local environment; and "borrowers who are not adequately involved in identification and design, and are often unable to manage technical assistance or absorb it in a sustainable manner"; and a lack of coordination among donors, resulting in duplication and sometimes conflicting advice. 38/

197. In order to overcome these obstacles and shortcomings, the new World Bank/IMF approach suggests that technical assistance must be adapted to the cultural, social and political values of local institutions. It recommends certain measures, including "giving greater priority to long-term institutional goals over short-term project goals; ensuring there is a real client, convinced of the need for external technical assistance to deal with a technical, institutional, or policy problem of high priority; establishing plans for systematically replacing expatriated staff with locals; improving aid coordination; designing technical assistance programmes to encourage the transfer of knowledge; making civil service employment more attractive to skilled workers; improving the financial viability of revenue-generating public enterprises as a prerequisite to improving pay and working conditions; privatizing certain public services; systematically evaluating the performance of consultants; exploring grant financing options; and introducing procedures for better management of technical assistance personnel (e.g., using market mechanisms to find nationals before seeking expatriates and developing local consulting expertise)". 39/

198. Since 1990, many multilateral and bilateral donors have been adopting the above-listed recommendations in their activities. First, they have attempted to improve the coordination of their efforts, utilizing more effectively

available mechanisms such as the World Bank-led consultative groups and the UNDP-led round tables. Secondly, they have increased the emphasis on the development of human and institutional capacities in recipient countries. Thirdly, they have started to pay more attention to local specifications when designing projects and to stimulate more active participation of local governments and targeted groups in the projects at all stages of execution. The World Bank and IMF have broadened their programmes to include "courses on the institutional aspects of management" in developing countries and in Eastern Europe.

199. An environmental dimension of the development process has been receiving growing attention from the international community since the end of the 1980s. All multilateral institutions have been trying to address environmental problems within their traditional activities. However, it has become apparent that, without a significant increase in their resources, they will not be able to cope with the problems under their competence, while simultaneously addressing their environmental dimension. It has also become obvious that environmental problems cannot be dealt in isolation from other development problems like poverty, population growth, human resource development, institutional build-up, and access to knowledge and technology. The magnitude of the challenge faced by humankind in the environmental area requires a fundamental change in the global mode of development and in international cooperation.

V. CONCLUSION

200. This review of the process of implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development reveals a disturbing picture. The large-scale problems of global development - the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition among hundreds of millions of people, homelessness, numerous manifestations of oppression, abuse, violence and discrimination, economic and social backwardness, world-wide pollution, deforestation, rapid extinction of plants and animals - have been only partly addressed. Despite persistent national and international efforts to reverse some of these negative trends and improve others, the world still finds itself in a critical state.

201. The current situation is characterized by three major concerns, which intersect: the first is poverty on a large scale; the second is the threat to the natural environment and the resource base; and the third is the continuing rapid growth of population, which interacts with poverty and environmental damage in a variety of complex ways. 40/ These three are the combined and accumulated result of the dominant pattern of development. On the one hand, the pattern has made possible the rapid development of natural and human resources, the generation of highly productive technology and improvement of the living and working conditions of millions of people. On the other hand, it has left behind large masses of displaced persons, underutilized production capacity and wasted resources and has engendered massive inequality and threatened to destroy the environment. Until recently, these adverse aspects were regarded as external costs of economic progress and social development. However, the massive scale of failure in developing countries and the inadequate effort of the international commununity to address them effectively have raised fundamental questions about the validity of the pattern. It now requires urgent correction.

202. Fortunately, changes have taken place in the external environment which give reason for guarded optimism. The end of the Cold War has made possible severe reductions in armaments, thereby releasing resources for tackling some of the daunting development problems at the national and international level. How soon the end of the cold war will usher in a new era of peace is unclear. In some countries, deep-rooted conflicts seem to have intensified as the restraints imposed by the cold war have been removed. However, the removal of one source of conflict - East/West ideological confrontation - must itself be considered a positive development. Cooperation between all the permanent members of the Security Council in solving different problems has replaced the immobility of that body. The first meeting of the Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government, held in January 1992, showed a new determination to revitalize the Council. In response to an invitation from that meeting, the Secretary-General prepared a report for the General Assembly entitled "An Agenda for Peace" 41/ which, as requested, dealt with preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping. The report added a closely related concept, post-conflict peace-building, and showed how the end of the Cold War had given the international community a second chance to create the world of the Charter and how the chance could be seized.

203. Another reason for optimism is that the international community has been taught some painful lessons in development as what had seemed promising avenues led to failure. This is clearly the case with the enthusiasm for

nationalization and planning and skepticism about the role of markets which affected at one time or another countries in most regions of the world, or with the contempt often expressed for the slower methods of consensus-building within a democratic framework as against the supposed dynamism of authoritarian regimes in promoting development. There is now a much greater consensus on what kinds of policies lead to sustained and sustainable growth and therefore more reason to think that countries will not again pursue misguided policies.

204. The Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, showed how the international community is in fundamental agreement on what policies make for successful development and how international economic cooperation can foster development. 42/ Similarly, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, the international community reached very substantial agreement on steps to be taken to safeguard the environment at the same time as ensuring socio-economic development. 43/

205. The crucial importance of technology in determining whether nations are rich or poor is now recognised. Other differences between countries - natural resource endowments, the size of the population, movements in the terms of trade - are important but hardly explain why some nations are richer than others. Of central importance is the ability to use and adapt technology. Technological advance is very rapid, and thus there is every reason to believe that developing countries will be able to benefit from and contribute to technological advances to a much greater extent than in the past.

Notes

1/ Address by the Secretary-General. Ninth Annual David M. Abshire Lecture: "From peace-keeping to peace-building". 13 May 1992.

2/ "The Charter of Paris for a New Europe", SIPRI Yearbook, 1991 (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991), appendix 17B, pp. 602-610.

3/ The START treaty stipulated that neither the United States of America nor the USSR should have more than 6,000 START-countable nuclear warheads on no more than 1,600 START-countable nuclear delivery vehicles. Within the warhead ceiling, START provided for sub-limits of 4,900 warheads on ballistic missiles, of which a maximum of 1,500 and 1,100 warheads may be deployed on heavy ICBMs and mobile ICBMs respectively. In order to comply with START limits and sub-limits, the United States would have had to cut the total number of its ICBM warheads by 41 per cent and the total number of its SLBM warheads by 34 per cent. The USSR would have had to decrease its arsenal of ICBMs by 49 per cent and of SLBMs by 53 per cent. (See SIPRI Yearbook, 1991 (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991), pp. 395-396.) Cuts agreed between Russia and the United States in June 1992 would reduce the number of strategic warheads possessed by Russia to 3,000 by the year 2003 and by the United States to 3,500 in the same year.

4/ International Institute for Strategic Studies, The Military Balance, 1991-1992 (London, Brassey's, 1991), p. 14.

5/ See United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 15 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IX.8), p. 286.

6/ For the text, see Jozef Goldblat and Thomas Bernauer, The Third Review of the Biological Weapons Convention: Issues and Proposals (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.91.0.5), pp. 71-72.

7/ United Nations, Department of Public Information, Press Release (SG/SM/4768, 17 June 1992).

8/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, paras. 13-14.

9/ Ibid., para. 65.

10/ Ibid., para. 78.

11/ London, Oxford University Press, 1990.

12/ OECD, Development Cooperation, 1991 Report (Paris, 1991), tables 14 and 15.

13/ Ibid., table 28.

14/ Ibid., p. 12. Some donors, especially the United States, never made such a commitment.

15/ Statements of the U.S. Administration and of some other Western countries.

16/ OECD, Development Cooperation, 1991 Report (Paris, 1991), p. 27.

17/ Ibid., p. 28.

18/ Inter-American Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Washington, D.C., 1992), p. 16.

19/ World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Bank Operations. Report No. 8491 of 9 April 1990 (Washington, D.C., 1990), p. 1.

20/ Ibid.

21/ Ibid., p. 3.

22/ J. Giusti, "Reflections of a rural educator", Workers Education in Action (Geneva, ILO, 1991), pp. 221-228.

23/ World Bank, Poverty Reduction ..., pp. 19-20.

24/ World Bank, Poverty Reduction ..., annex I, pp. 32-42.

25/ Asian Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Manila, 1992), p. 63.

26/ Inter-American Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Washington, D.C., 1992), p. 18.

27/ Ibid., p. 17.

28/ Ibid., pp. 18-19.

29/ Asian Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Manila, 1992).

30/ Address of Mr. Heribert Maier, Deputy Director-General of the ILO to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 6 October 1992.

31/ Choices, vol. 1, No. 2 (1992), p. 20.

32/ See, for example, Arturo Israel, Institutional Development: Incentives to Performance (Baltimore/London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987); World Bank, World Development Report, 1985, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 (Washington, D.C.); World Economic Survey, 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.II.C.1); 1989 Report on the World Social Situation and 1991 Report on the World Social Situation (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.89.IV.1 and E.91.IV.1, respectively); 1993 Report on the World Social Situation (United Nations publication, forthcoming); and related studies of other United Nations system institutions.

33/ UNDP, The Challenge of the Environment. 1991 UNDP Annual Report (New York, 1992), p. 7.

34/ World Food Programme, 1992 Food Aid Review (Rome, 1992), pp. 64-65.

35/ Laura Wallace, "Reshaping technical assistance", Finance and Development (December 1990), p. 26.

36/ Derick W. Brinkerhoff and Arthur A. Goldsmith, "Promoting the sustainability of development institutions: Framework for strategy", World Development, vol. 20, No. 3, p. 369.

37/ Ibid., pp. 369-370.

38/ Laura Wallace, loc. cit., p. 27.

39/ Ibid., p. 28.

40/ Nafis Sadik, "Rethinking modernism: towards human-centred development", Development, vol. 2 (1992), p. 16.

41/ A/47/277-S/24111.

42/ Resolution S-18/3, annex. The Declaration is reproduced in World Economic Survey, 1990 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.II.C.1), pp. 7-10.

43/ See A/CONF.151/26, vols. 1-5.